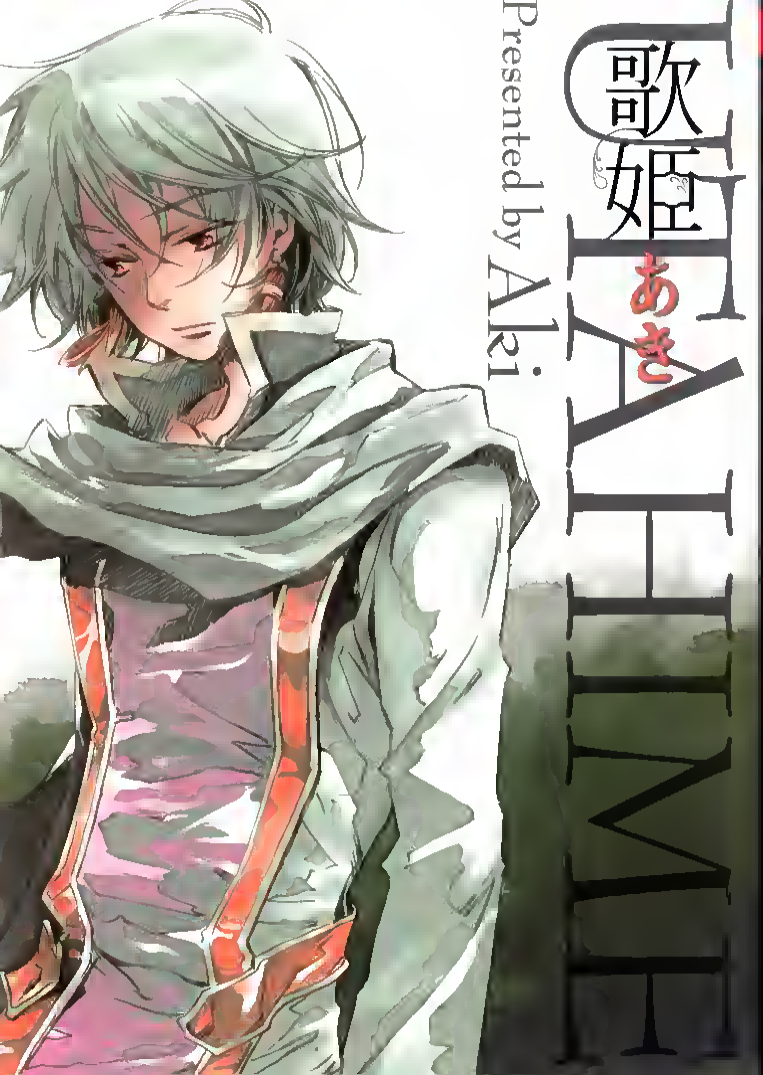
Created By Aki.

This is my first manga. Wow! Considering that, I'm moving slowly, as always.
I work while thinking, "Since it's the first one, couldn't I maybe be a bit livelier, self? I'm really very sorry...

カバーデザイン　斉藤陽子(CoCo.Design)



歌姫 あき UTAHIME

Presented by Aki

ZERO COMICS

歌姫 UTAHIME

あき

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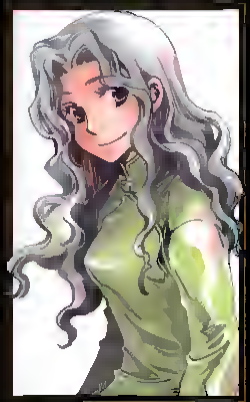
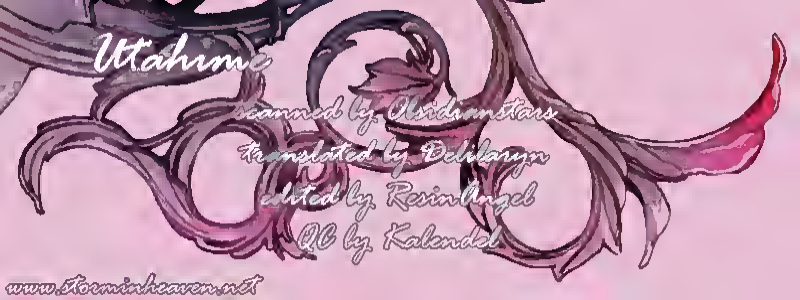


Only women can possess the Song Princess' ability. They are naturally devoted to the country, and as long as they continue singing, the country is kept safe. And yet, a forbidden male Song Princess exists...?! He returns to spin a story both sorrowful and tender. The long-awaited new release and its magnificent conclusion!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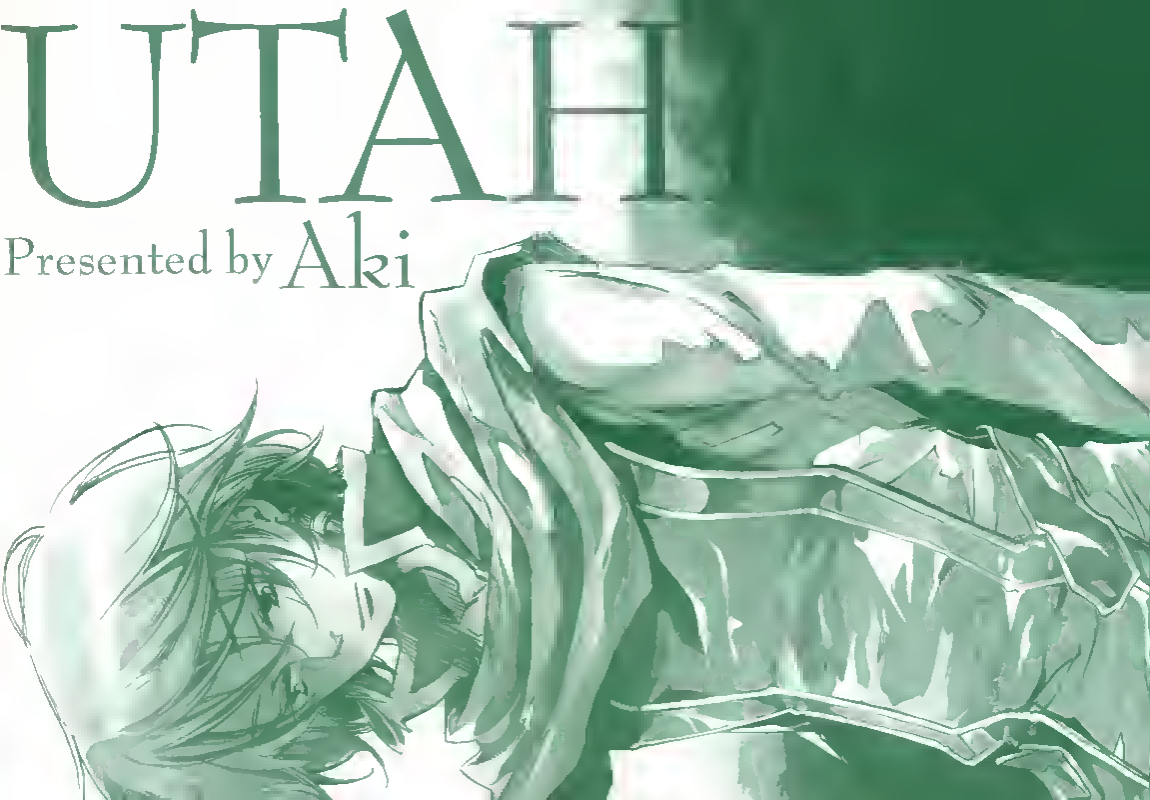

歌姫 UTAHIME

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歌姫

UTAHIME

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WANTED
WANTED
WANTED
WHAT AN UGLY FACE STUCK UP ON SOMEONE ELSE'S WALL
CAIN!
HEY LONG TIME NO SEE YOU DAMN VILLAGE CHIEF
THAT "DAMN" IS UNCALLED FOR!
HERE, FOOD!
THA-NKS
OH
EVERY-ONE IN THE VILLAGE SENDS THEIR REGARDS TO THE SONG PRINCESS
YEAH, YEAH SIS YOU MEAN.

WHOA!
WHAT'S WITH THAT DISGUSTING THING?!
HUH? THIS?
JEEZ
YOU'RE STILL SAYING STUFF LIKE...
WANTED
SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE POSTED IT LAST NIGHT
I WAS ABOUT TO TEAR IT DOWN
SCR?
SWISH
SCR? NO WAY!
...
BUT REALLY... WAS THIS SUPPOSED TO SHOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?
"DRESSED IN PURPLE, WITH A PONYTAIL."
ANYWAY, YOU WORK ON THIS TOO!
A WOMAN?!
NO WAY!
YOU'VE GOT THE ONLY TOOL
THE CULPRIT WOULD GET PISSED IF HE SAW THIS
SCR ATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
WHAAAT?!
WANTED
THUD
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?
A THUD?
Nice guy

歌姫

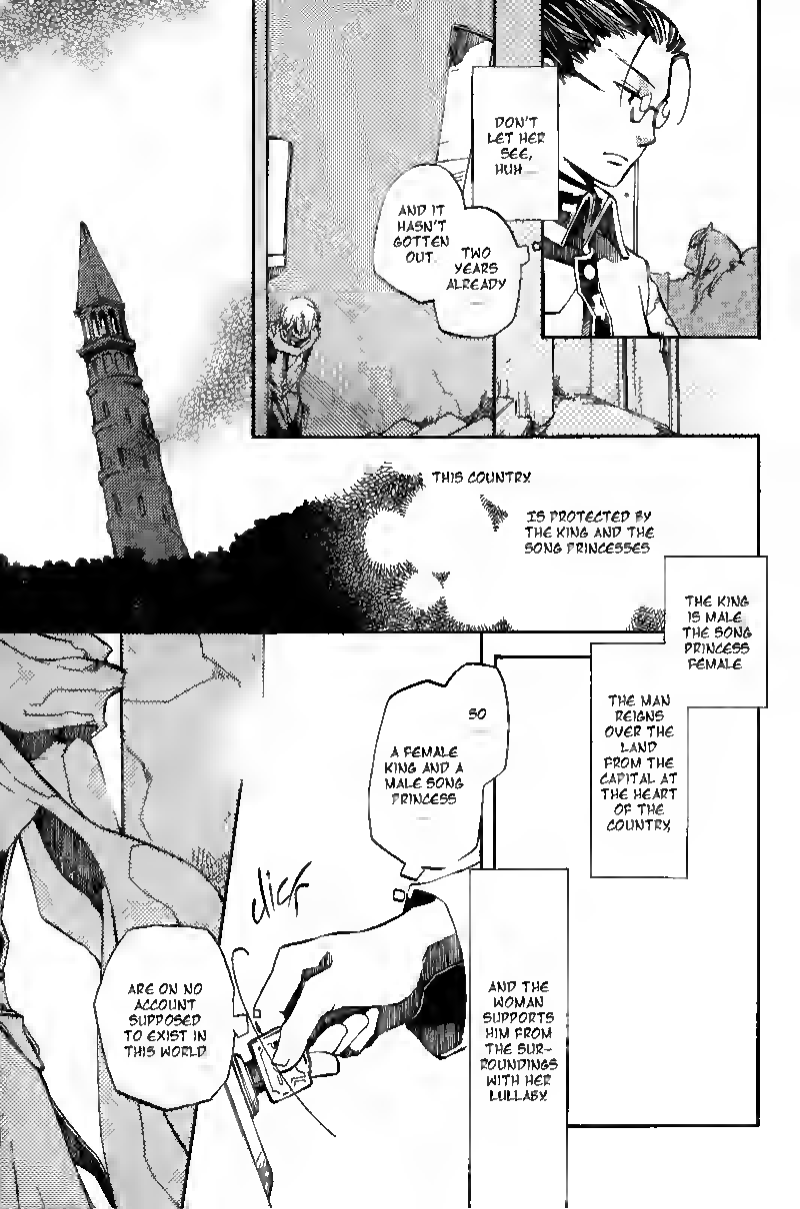
UTAHIME

CHAPTER ONE

IT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE BUT...
MORE THAN "NOT THINKING ABOUT IT" IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
YOU AREN'T THINKING ABOUT TURNING HER IN...?
SHE MATCHES UP EXACTLY WITH THE INFORMATION AND CHARACTERISTICS ON THE SIGN
ASIDE FROM THE FACE
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
WHAT IS IT?
THIS SIGN... WAS PRINTED BY THE ROYAL GUARD
!!
WHAT!?
IT'S A TOP-SECRET ORGANISATION THAT ONLY TAKES ACTION IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE ROYAL FAMILY
SHE'S BEING CHARGED AS A REBEL, BUT THAT'S PROBABLY NOT REALLY IT
WELL, WE'LL LEARN THE DETAILS AFTER SHE WAKES UP
HMM...
BY THE WAY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU
WHERE DID YOU GO?
OH...
ding dong

IT WAS FOR WORK
I WENT TO THE CAPITAL.
THE CAPITAL?
SO YOU WENT PRETTY FAR AGAIN
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE OLD
Why do you always...
Say one thing after the other?
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
IT SEEMS THAT THE KING HAS PASSED AWAY.
WHEN...?
ABOUT A WEEK AGO.
THERE HAD BEEN RUMOURS FOR QUITE A WHILE THAT HE WAS SICK, BUT...
AND AS USUAL, THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER IS AIMING FOR THE THRONE.
...THE KING'S...
DAUGHTER...
....
WHAT ABOUT HER?

IT'D BE NICE IF YOU ALWAYS ASKED YOUR QUESTIONS LIKE THA—
OH— IT'S TIME
HEY AREN'T YOU MAKING TEA?
CHEW ON THE LEAVES.
AND AREN'T YOU ON BREAK TODA—
SHUT UP! BE QUIET, YOU INSECT!
STEAM
A BUG
HEY!
.....
THERE'S AN OUTSIDER HERE TODAY,
SO LOCK THE DOOR
MAKE SURE OF IT
AND DON'T LET HER SEE WHEN YOU UNLOCK IT EITHER
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT
SLAM


DON'T LET HER SEE, HUH...
AND IT HASN'T GOTTEN OUT. TWO YEARS ALREADY...
THIS COUNTRY
IS PROTECTED BY THE KING AND THE SONG PRINCESSES
THE KING IS MALE THE SONG PRINCESS FEMALE
THE MAN REIGNS OVER THE LAND FROM THE CAPITAL AT THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY.
SO A FEMALE KING AND A MALE SONG PRINCESS...
click
ARE ON NO ACCOUNT SUPPOSED TO EXIST IN THIS WORLD
AND THE WOMAN SUPPORTS HIM FROM THE SURROUNDINGS WITH HER LULLABY

THERE IS
ABSO-LUTELY NO ROOM TO DOUBT
THAT HE IS A SONG PRIN-CESS
AFTER ALL THE FUSS WITH A DAUGHTER BEING BORN TO THE KING
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT A MALE SONG PRINCESS
IS IT

ARE WE TO BLAME FOR NEVER THINKING TO QUESTION IT?
OR... THE FAULT OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST?
chirp
chirp
KNock
KNock
KNock
KNock
DOOR... KEY
MORNING?
YAWN
SHALL I GO UNLOCK IT?
WHY IS IT LOCKED?
BECAUSE IT WOULD BE BAD IF IT GOT OUT THAT THE SONG PRINCESS IS MALE.
"WHY," YOU SAY
THAT'S
OH... YEAH,
IF YOU WOULD
OKAY!
SO--
CLICK

Who?
chirp
chirp
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
HUH?
DINDHN
I GUESS WE'LL START WITH INTRO-DUCTIONS?
STEAM
I'M RAH
I HEARD RUMOURS ABOUT A MALE SONG PRINCESS SO I CAME TO MEET HIM.
YOU REALLY ARE A GUY, AREN'T YOU!
WHAT A SUR-PRISE!!
SILENCE
What's the fuss?

SHE SAW...
RE-SIGN YOUR-SELF
I guess...!! I'll go make tea or some-thing.
STA GG ER
DON'T GO BLURTING THAT OUT!!
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?!
AND THAT'S CAIN
THOMAS
AND YOU ARE?
I'm not gonna whisper.
Nannes!
Grandpa pls
I'M NOT MAD!!
HEY ARE YOU STILL MAD?
HMPH
* He's pissed
I said to be careful, didn't I?! You stupid grasshopper!
Whoa hey!
SHUT UP!!
CAIN THAT'S DIF-FERENT FROM WHAT YOU SAID YESTER-DAY...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT IT'S YOU! IT'S THE SPITTING IMAGE!
HEY!! I SAID THAT WASN'T ME!!
I DON'T RECALL BEING CALLED STINGY BY A REBEL...
STI-NGY!
YOU'RE THE SONG PRINCESS, RIGHT? WHY DO YOU HIDE IT?
It might already be Bad
FISH.
...WHAT'S INSIDE?
OH...
SLAM
That would go Bad.
YOU'RE TRYING TO KICK ME OUT OF THE ROOM, AREN'T YOU?
I WON'T FALL FOR THAT
IT'LL SPOIL
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T FALL FOR IT
HERE, FOOD FROM YESTER-DAY
GO PUT IT IN THE STORE-HOUSE!

MY APOLOGIES
HUH?
THAT HE... WAS SO RUDE
HE ALWAYS SLEEPS FOR HOURS THE NIGHT BEFORE HE SINGS
BUT YESTERDAY, HE WAS BUSY TAKING CARE OF YOU AND SUCH
I THINK HE'S SO DEAD TIRED BY NOW THAT HE'S BECOME SHORT-TEMPERED
"BEFORE HE SINGS"
SO THEN HE REALLY IS... THE MALE SONG PRINCESS?
SHH
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TELLING ANYONE WHAT I'VE SAID
OR ELSE YOU'LL BE KILLED
AHAHA
I MEANT TO RESPECT HIS DESIRE TO HIDE IT, BUT...
I couldn't help myself
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED LIKE THAT... EITHER I THINK

INDEED.
WHEN DID YOU REALISE?
WAS IT WHEN YOU STARTED SPEAKING MORE POLITELY?
NOT QUITE
I FIGURED IT OUT WHEN I HEARD THAT THE ROYAL GUARD PUBLISHED THE WANTED SIGN
9 pages ago.
WHEN WAS THAT?
I WAS ONLY SURE WHEN YOU SAID YOU CAME TO MEET THE MALE SONG PRINCESS THOUGH
YOUR MAJESTY
JUST WHEN I THINK YOU'RE BEING SHOT DOWN BY CAIN
YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY INTELLIGENT
HOW FAR HAS IT LEAKED?

It all depends on the way you say it.
Run away?
IT'S THAT YOU WENT OFF SOMEWHERE INCOGNITO
IS IT KNOWN THAT I'VE RUN AWAY?
OH SO THE RUMOUR IS THE LATEST VERSION
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING BEYOND THE RUMOURS,
BUT I WAS AT THE CAPITAL UNTIL RECENTLY, SO...
Hup
Hup
THE KING'S FIRST WORDS UPON SEEING HIS DAUGHTER WERE...
"WHOSE CHILD IS THIS?"
IN OTHER WORDS A FEMALE KING
THE KING'S DAUGHTER WHO WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE BORN
I INTEND TO FOLLOW MATTERS INVOLVING THE FEMALE
AND SINCE THAT IS MY FRIEND
That's
AHOO!
[T/N: In Japan, it is said that you sneeze when someone talks about you.]
FIRST IT WAS SUSPECTED THAT MY MOTHER HAD COMMITTED ADULTERY
WHEN THAT WAS DISPROVED,
IT WAS RUMOURED THAT SOMETHING WAS MIXED IN WITH THE KING'S BLOOD...
AND NOW THAT THE KING HAS DIED, THERE'S THE DISPUTE OVER THE SUCCESSION
PUT THE BLOODLINE FIRST AND INSTALL A WOMAN AS KING...
OR PROTECT TRADITION AND MAKE THE KING'S BROTHER THE HEIR?
IF YOU ACCEDE TO THE MONARCHY, IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT YOU, AS A DAUGHTER, WILL END UP AS A STAIN ON THE ROYAL FAMILY
IT IS THE RIGHTFUL JUDGMENT TO RESOLVE YOURSELF TO ACCEDE TO THE THRONE
HOWEVER, IT WILL PLACE YOU FIRMLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE KING'S BROTHER

NO WAY...
Eyes on girly bars as usual!!
NO
THERE IS NO WAY HE FIGURED IT OUT
DO YOU THINK CAIN REALISED IT?
THAT'S RIGHT
AND PERHAPS FOLLOWED THE RUMOURS OF THE MALE SONG PRINCESS HERE
MIGHT IT BE THAT YOU WERE UNEASY.
EVERYONE BELIEVED SHE WAS THE SONG PRINCESS THERE WAS NEVER A DOUBT.
SHE WAS THIS AREA'S SONG PRINCESS UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO
CAIN'S TWIN SISTER
MARIA?
EVEN THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE STILL THINK THAT MARIA IS SINGING...
YES
THE ONES WHO KNOW THAT CAIN IS A SONG PRINCESS... IT IS ONLY YOU, THOMAS?
AND MARIA HERSELF.
EVEN CAIN
BUT THE EXACT TRUTH IS A BIT DIFFERENT.
THAT MUCH IS THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING
YES, I SUPPOSE SO.
A FAMILY WHO SINGS A SONG EACH NIGHT FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY...?
That's
THERE ARE MANY OF THEM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ALL WOMEN...
HOW MUCH?
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SONG PRINCESSES?
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
IT LOOKS POSSIBLE FROM THE OUTSIDE...

UNLIKE THE ROYAL FAMILY
THERE ARE BOYS BORN IN INTO THE FAMILY LINE OF THE SONG PRINCESSES...
!
STATISTICALLY THE ODDS ARE MUCH HIGHER THAT IT WILL BE A GIRL
BUT IT'S NOT UNUSUAL, AT LEAST, FOR BOYS TO BE BORN
HOWEVER,
THE SONG PRINCESS' ABILITY...
IS PASSED DOWN FROM MOTHER TO CHILD EXCLUSIVELY TO GIRLS
THAT IS THE REASON WHY MALE SONG PRINCESSES DO NOT EXIST.
...I DIDN'T KNOW...
ONLY A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO KNOW
IF THAT KNOWLEDGE WERE MISUSED THE SONG PRINCESSES WOULD BE ANNIHILATED
THIS SONG PRINCESS' ENTIRE LINE WOULD DIE OUT.
THEREFORE...
FOR EXAMPLE,
IF THE PRESENT SONG PRINCESS WERE TO DIE BEFORE GIVING BIRTH TO A GIRL,

WE VILLAGERS...
IN SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY SUPERVISE THE SONG PRINCESS AND RECEIVE ALL SORTS OF REWARDS FOR OUR WORK
IN THE NAME OF SUPPORTING THAT SONG PRINCESS
WE'VE CONSTRUCTED A VILLAGE AROUND THE TOWER WHERE THE SONG PRINCESS LIVES...
...WELL, IF ANYTHING...
THOUGH IT'S A STATE CLOSE TO PARASITISM.
WE DO LIVE HERE...
TO ME, THEY SEEMED TO BE TWO SIBLINGS
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES ANYTHING OF THE SORT.
MARIA SURELY...
REALISED THAT SHE WAS NOT THE SONG PRINCESS
I MET WITH MARIA NEARLY EVERY DAY, BUT
SHE NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING
...AND CAIN?
IF THE TRUE SONG PRINCESS WAS CAIN, WOULDN'T YOU KNOW FROM HIS VOICE?
HUH?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BUT...
SIGH
...THAT GUY...

Sulky
AND FOR TEN YEARS
TEN YEARS !!
PFFT!
RAN AWAY
HE BECAME SO SULKY AND
THROUGH-OUT THE VILLAGE, PEOPLE ALWAYS TREASURED MARIA, SO—
?
HE'S HAD THAT PERSONALITY SINCE A LONG TIME AGO—
Shut up! Creep! Pray-ing mantis! Don't come near me idiot
He's already being spoken to so cruelly
I'M SORRY FOR LAUGH-ING BUT HOW LIKE HIM!
Well he's hot-tempered enough to yell
How simple
Really?
HE HASN'T GROWN UP—
ISN'T IT?
POUND
QUICK !!
THO-MAS !! OPEN THE DOOR !!
THEN, TWO YEARS AGO, HE SUD-DENLY CAME BACK
BAM BAM BAM
—? WHO IS IT? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT—
JUST OPEN THE DOOR!!
IT'S ME! CAIN!
... CAIN?!
HURRY !!
SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH MARIA'S VOICE!
I C-N'T GET INTO THE TOWER, IT'S LOCKED—
YOU HAVE THE KEY, DON'T YOU?!
HURRY !!

AWFUL NOISE?
I COULD HEAR MARIA'S VOICE THERE
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S HORRIBLE! IT'S FULL OF THIS AWFUL NOISE!
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE STOP HER?
THE CAPITAL
THE CAPITAL?!
WHERE DID YOU COME BACK FROM?
WHAT IS IT ALL OF A SUDDEN
YOU COULD CERTAINLY HEAR THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE EVEN IN THE CAPITAL, BUT
IF YOU DON'T LISTEN CAREFULLY, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HEAR AT ALL!
BUT NOT LOUD ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO HEAR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
I CAN'T HEAR ANY NOISE
AREN'T YOU JUST MISHEARING SOMETHING?!
INTERFERING IN AN OFFERING TO THE KING IS A CRIME!
LET'S GO BACK, CAIN!
DON'T BE STUPID!!
WHY CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?!
IF WE DON'T STOP HER SOON ...!!

YOU—
YOU IDIOT!
WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO STOP THE SONG PRINCESS' SONG!
IT'S A FELONY!!
WAIT UNTIL DAWN!!
BUT—
AND WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU DOING NOT COMING BACK FOR TEN YEARS!!
!
YOU DIDN'T CONTACT US EVEN ONCE!!
YOU'VE WORRIED MARIA TERRIBLY!
AND THEN YOU COME BACK ALL OF A SUDDEN AND SAY THAT SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HER VOICE?!
YOU...
B—BUT...
HER VOICE IS STRANGE!
ALMOST AS IF...
"ALMOST AS IF?"
SPIT IT OUT!
—
AL—MOST AS IF...
ALMOST AS IF SHE WEREN'T...
THE SONG PRINCESS...

HUH?
HER VOICE
STOPPED?
WE HURRIED AND CLIMBED THE TOWER, BUT
SHE HAD ALREADY VOMITED UP BLOOD AND DIED
WHY
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID
EH?
I DIDN'T COME BACK FOR TEN YEARS
IT'S BECAUSE

I THINK MARIA THOUGHT THE SAME...
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO FEEL THAT WAY.
YOU'RE BLAMING YOURSELF NOW, AREN'T YOU?
WHY?
DON'T TELL ANYONE IN THE VILLAGE
I ABANDONED MY HOME, AND THEN I EXPOSED...
MARIA, POOR THING.
WHAT SHE WANTED SO MUCH TO HIDE, EVEN WHEN IT CAME TO THIS.
CERTAINLY
IF WE DID THAT THEN EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE PEACEFULLY.
AFTER ALL, THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THE SONG PRINCESS OF THIS PLACE...
IS MARIA
BUT THEN...
IT'S NOT ME...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?
THAT'S FINE...

HE IS
GOING IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO EVERY-THING. ISN'T HE?
LIKE ME
I LIVE WHILE SHOUTING AT THE TOP OF MY VOICE
THAT I AM THE KING
EVEN IF BECAUSE OF THAT THE KING'S BROTHER
MY UNCLE BECOMES MY ENEMY.
THAT, TOO,
IS A VERY DIFFICULT PATH
BUT BE-CAUSE IT'S SUCH AN UPROAR,
I'M SURE I'LL HAVE MANY ALLIES.
THE PATH HE'S FOL-LOWING IS SAD AND LONELY
HE'S SO KIND THAT HE SEEMS WEAK,
BUT HE DOESN'T ASK FOR HELP FROM ANYONE

I THINK THAT—
HE'S VERY LUCKY THAT YOU'RE HERE
HEARING YOU SAY THAT—
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M SAVED
BECAUSE EVEN IF IT KILLED HIM, YOU'D NEVER HEAR THAT FROM HIS MOUTH!!
THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT!!
AHA HA
GRR
OH.
click
DEAR ME

SO YOU FINALLY CAME BACK, DID YOU?
WELCOME BACK CAIN
DID YOU SLEEP IN THE STOREHOUSE?
I DIDN'T SLEEP !!
Lisa
Passed out...
ANYWAY!
SOMEONE'S COME TO PICK YOU UP
IT'S THE ROYAL GUARD
STEP
YOUR MAJESTY...
WE HAVE COME TO ACCOMPANY YOU BACK...
KNIGHT COMMANDER JESS...

BAM
THE ONE WHO DREW THIS WAS YOU, WASN'T IT!!
YES, IT WAS INDEED ME
AND?
JEEZ!..
DIDN'T I SAY IT BEFORE?! DON'T DRAW ANYMORE!!
Mmm by the Knight Commander
TO BEGIN WITH, WHY WAS HE ALLOWED TO DRAW ME?!
THAT'S BECAUSE THE COMMANDER SAID HE WOULD DRAW IT HIMSELF
STOP IT!
I FLATTER MYSELF THAT THE EXPRESSION ABOUT THE EYES RESEMBLES HER.
Especially the right eye
WHAT DOES?!
NO, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU. IT REALLY DOES.
A SPITTING IMAGE OF YOUR MAJESTY.
I'LL PUNCH YOU.
YOU DO SEEM TO HAVE MANY COMPANIONS
THAT'S GREAT

...WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?
WHO KNOWS?
IN THE CAPITAL
YOU CAN ONLY JUST HEAR THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE
BUT EVER SINCE I HEARD THE RUMOURS ABOUT THE MALE SONG PRINCESS,
I'VE SEARCHED FOR THAT VOICE EVERY NIGHT
IF A FEMALE SONG PRINCESS SINGS...
FOR THE SAKE OF THE MALE KING, THEN...
I LISTENED CAREFULLY,
AND THOUGHT THAT ONE OF THOSE FAINT SOUNDS WAS HIS VOICE
THEN THE ONE WHO WILL SING FOR THE FEMALE KING...
IT WAS LIKE SEARCHING...
FOR THE SOUND OF A SINGLE FALLING RAINDROP AMONGST ALL THE OTHERS
COULD ONLY BE THE MALE SONG PRINCESS, I THOUGHT.
BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT ONE OF THEM HAD TO BE HIS VOICE
THAT'S HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT WAS,

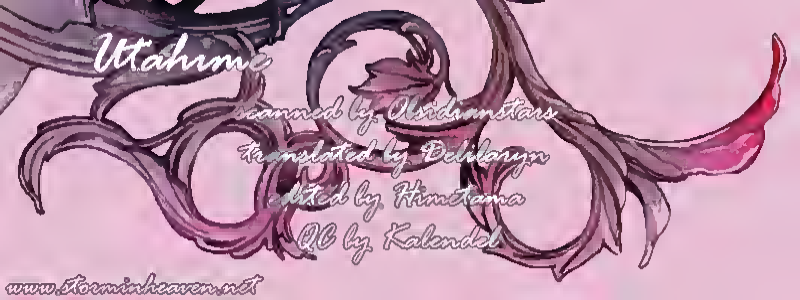
BE-
CAUSE
THAT'S
A
QUESTION
THAT MUST
NOT BE AN-
SWERED.
I
WON'T
ASK YOU
ANY MORE
QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE
MALE SONG
PRINCESS.
BUT IN THE
CAPITAL, I'LL
ALWAYS BE
LISTENING
TAKE
CARE.
CAIN
YOU,
TOO.
TAKE
CARE.

SO WAS THAT...
THE "MALE SONG PRINCESS" YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR?
HUH?
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM RUNNING AWAY IN SECRET WITHOUT TELLING US
WE HAVE A HARD TIME SEARCHING FOR YOU
IT'S THE FAULT OF THE PORTRAIT YOU DREW THAT YOU DIDN'T FIND ME... ISN'T IT?
Hm, it's homeless.
HUH?
THAT COULDN'T BE.
AND WHAT WAS WITH THE "REBEL" THING?!
ISN'T THAT JUST CRUEL?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
WE DID LABEL YOU AS A REBEL
BUT STILL, THEY FIND ME EACH TIME I SLIP OUT.
THEY REALLY ARE AMAZING, AREN'T THEY?
YOUR MAJESTY
PLEASE STOP YOUR HORSE
What kind of search strategy is that?
BUT IT WAS STATED THAT ANYONE WHO FOUND YOU WAS NOT TO LAY A FINGER ON YOU

EVEN IF...
CAIN.
IT'S SO FAINT IT CAN'T BE HEARD...
THAT VOICE
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE...

HERE, FOR SURE,

THAT VOICE IS CRYING OUT.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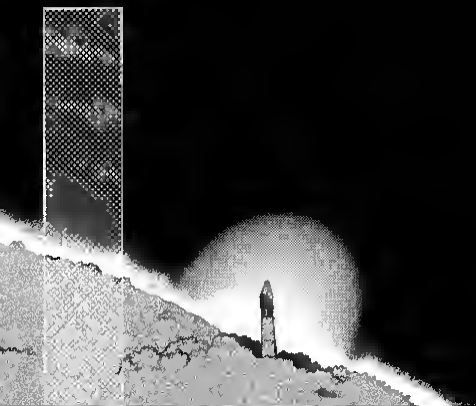
歌姫
UTAHIME
CHAPTER TWO

We had words that we could not say.



FATHER,
WHO'S SINGING THIS SONG?
SONG?
OH, YES. WELL, YOU KNOW THE TOWER AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN?
THE SONG PRINCESS SINGS THERE
SONG PRINCESS?
SOMEONE IS LIVING IN THAT TOWER?
CAN I GO MEET HER?
.....
GIVE IT UP.
YOU'LL BE KILLED.
WHAT?!
YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT GO, THOMAS.
IT SEEMS ... THAT SOME TERRIBLE THING LIVES THERE.
bump
bump
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL VOICE SINGING ...

fwsshh
?
Huh?
How disgraceful!
...SOMETHING IN THE VILLAGE THAT THE NEXT VILLAGE CHIEF DOESN'T UNDERSTAND!
THAT THERE COULD BE...
BUT...
SCARY
...THAT I WAS BORN AS THE SON OF THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE...
AROUND THE AGE WHEN I FINALLY REALISED...
A pointless sense of duty
AH...
IF I GET HOME LATE ON TOP OF DISOBEYING MY FATHER'S ORDERS—
AND THE ROAD IS SO STEEP!
AND THE FOREST IS SO DARK
Gulp
And there's something screaming out there!
.....
He's too proud to say he's scared.
wheeze
wheeze
IT'S FURTHER THAN I THOUGHT!
AAAH!
NEGHH!

I'LL JUST GO HOME ALREADY
rush
IT'S STILL A LONG WAY AWAY
IT LOOKS LIKE
I GUESS
AH!
WAIT, CAIN!
HUH?
MARIA!
SOMEONE'S THERE!
WHAT?

—WHO IS THAT?
...A GIRL...
MARIA!
STUPID!! THAT'S...
BAM
ONE OF THOSE GUYS FROM THE VILLAGE BELOW!
BELOW?

I'M THOMAS
AND YOU TWO? DO YOU LIVE IN THE TOWER?
Song Princess
WHAT
I THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING SCARY LIVED THERE,
BUT THEY'RE ONLY KIDS!
I'M THE SON OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF— BELOW
THE HEAD OF THE VIL-LAGE?
THE VILLAGE CHIEF?
The basic manners of the next village chief: "First, correct your posture and give your name."
OH
I KNOW HIM. I KNOW HIM. THE VILLAGE CHIEF,
HE'S THE BIG BOSS OF THE PARASITES
zing!

WHY A PARASITE?
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT. PARASITE.
MOM SAID NOT TO TALK TO THEM.
YOU'LL BE KILLED BY MOM
BETTER HURRY HOME!
WHAAT ?!
PARA... SITE?!
BYE-BYE, THOMAS!
STUPID!! WHAT ARE YOU WAVING AT HIM FOR?!
I—
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL!
tremble
tremble
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD ASK MY FATHER ABOUT SOMETHING I DID IN SECRET...
AND OF COURSE I CAN'T ASK ANYONE IN THE VILLAGE, EITHER...
AND I REALLY DON'T LIKE...
BEING TALKED TO LIKE THAT...
Hmph

THERE MUST BE...
SOME KIND OF MISUN-DER-STAND-ING
I WONDER IF...
WE COULDN'T GET ALONG
I DIDN'T ...
KNOW ANYTHING
"YOU ABSO-LUTELY ..."
"...MUST NOT GO."
FROM THAT DAY ON, BEHIND MY FATHER'S BACK I STARTED GOING TO SEE THE TWO OF THEM
CAIN.
CAIN!

...WHAT IS IT?
HEY, TODAY— THAT THOMAS PERSON
DIDN'T HE SEEM DIFFERENT SOMEHOW FROM THE PEOPLE WHO USUALLY COME?
...DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, MARIA.
BUT— HE'S THE SON OF THE BOSS OF THE PARASITES.
BUT... HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT MOM SAID?
MOM DID SAY THAT...
BUT THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE NICE, AND THEY GIVE ME FOOD.
THEY AREN'T ALL BAD PEOPLE.
...DID HE FALL ASLEEP?
HEY, CAIN?
"CAIN..
PROTECT MARIA."

"THOSE PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE BELOW..."
"NO MATTER HOW KINDLY THEY TREAT YOU..."
"...DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT USING THE SONG PRINCESS"
"YOU MUST NOT TRUST THEM."
I MUST...
...PRO-TECT MARIA.
THE JOB OF THE SONG PRIN-CESS...
IS TO CONTINUE SINGING HER SONG THROUGH-OUT THE NIGHT.
SO MOM HAS TO REST IN THE AFTER-NOON
SO IF THE PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE COME I HAVE TO DRIVE THEM AWAY
THAT'S RIGHT.
EVEN THINK-ING THAT...
MARIA!
ARE YOU DOING WELL?

I BROUGHT YOU NEW CLOTHES TODAY!
Yay!
THE VILLAGERS...
...WERE KIND TO MARIA.
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE NEXT SONG PRINCESS, YOU KNOW...
MAKE SURE YOU EAT WELL, TOO!
OKAY!
YOU MUST NOT TRUST THEM. THEY'RE TRYING TO TAME MARIA
THERE'S NO WAY... ...THAT I'LL BE DECEIVED
WHERE'S CAIN?
CAIN IS A BOY.
SO HE DOESN'T NEED ANYTHING
CAIN, I GOT SOME CANDY.
NO THANKS
THE BROTHER DOESN'T TRUST ANYONE DOES HE
HE DOESN'T REALLY MATTER

HEY, MARIA, CAIN.
AH!
THE SIDE THEY SHOW ME IS THEIR TRUE NATURE
DON'T BE DE-CEIVED!
OH! THOMAS!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN COMING LATELY?
MARIA!
DON'T GET SO CLOSE TO HIM!
MY, MY
CAIN IS THE SAME AS EVER, I SEE.
Z.
..NG!
I GUESS HE'S SAYING THAT HE STILL DOESN'T TRUST ME
EVEN THOUGH HALF A YEAR HAS PASSED!

THOMAS IS—
—DIFFER-ENT
THOSE GLASSES ARE DIS-GUSTING!
WHAT?!
I CAN'T HELP IT. CAN I? MY EYES GOT WORSE...!
You're blaming my glasses?!
POINT
CAIN,
I WENT TO THE CAPITAL FOR SOME BUSINESS OF MY FATHER'S.
I, TOO, THINK THAT
I BOUGHT A LOT OF RARE THINGS THERE—
Wow!
PRETTY!
CAIN
CANDY. LET'S EAT SOME TO-GETHER,
WHAT IS THIS?
BUT—
"YOU MUST NOT TRUST THEM."

...NO THANKS
AS TIME PASSED BY,
IT BECAME
TO SEEM LIKE SOME-THING MEANING-LESS.
I'VE HEARD ...
...THAT YOU'RE GOING TO THE SONG PRINCESS, THOMAS.

SHOCK
EH—
THA—
THAT'S—
WELL
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'VE BEEN GOING FOR YEARS
Found out
YES
I'M SORRY
WELL, IT'S FINE
IT ACTUALLY SAVES ME THE TROUBLE
AT ANY RATE, IT'S THE JOB THAT YOU'LL TAKE OVER
YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE TAMING THE SONG PRINCESS
"TAMING"?
YES, INDEED

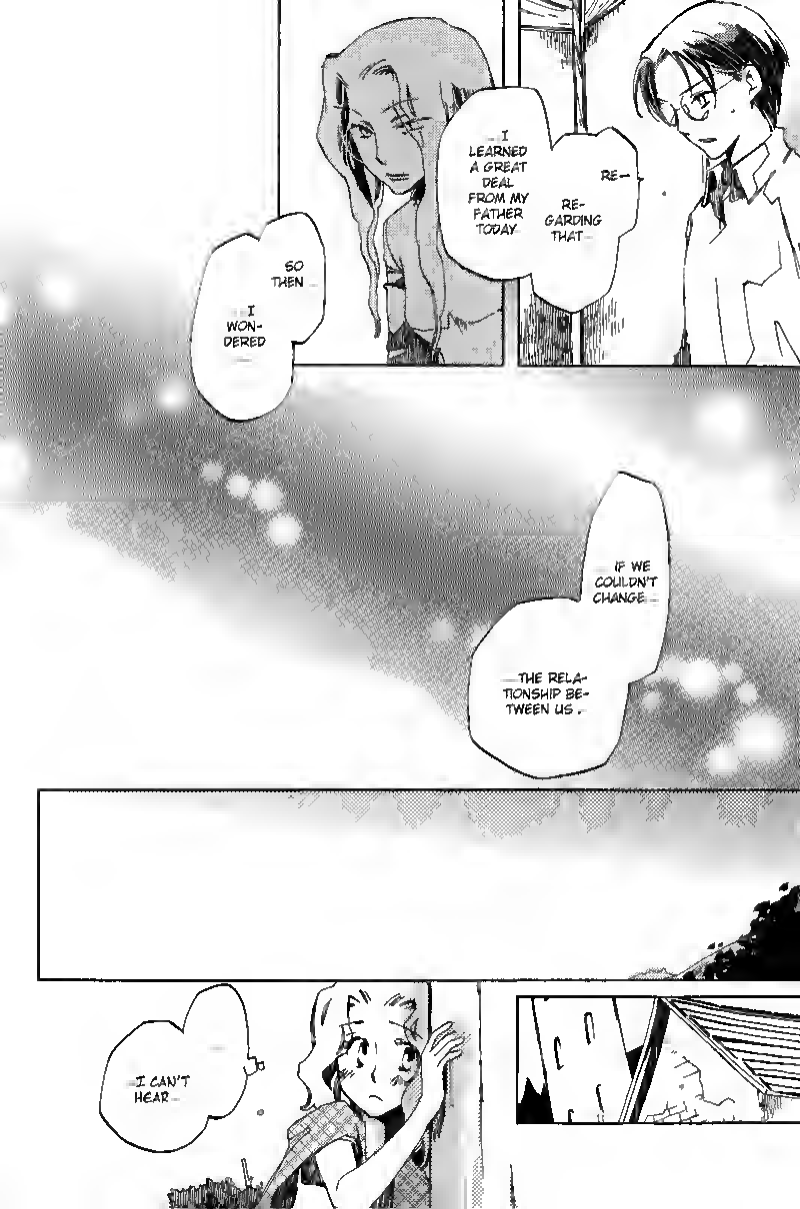
IT'S ABOUT TIME...
...THAT YOU LEARN THE ROLE OF THIS VILLAGE
VERY SOON,
THE CURRENT SONG PRINCESS WILL BE USELESS
WELL, MOM...
...SEEMS TO BE IN BAD HEALTH...
IF...
I TAKE MOM'S PLACE IN THE SONG PRINCESS' JOB...
THEN I'LL HAVE LESS TIME TO MEET WITH YOU, THOMAS
THERE IS POWER IN THE SONG PRINCESS' SONG.
THE POWER IN ANY ONE OF THEM IS SLIGHT,
BUT SINCE THEY ARE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM AND MADE TO SING AS ONE, THEY GUIDE THE COUNTRY TO PEACE.

THE ROLE ASSIGNED TO THIS VILLAGE BY THE COUNTRY...
...IS TO KEEP THE SONG PRINCESS' SONG FROM STOPPING
TO THAT END, WE CAN USE WHATEVER METHODS WE MUST.
"WHATEVER METHODS"?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE SONG PRINCESS' ABILITY IS PASSED ON FROM THE MOTHER TO A SINGLE DAUGHTER.
IN OTHER WORDS...
...IF THE GIRL IS BORN FROM THE SONG PRINCESS' WOMB,
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOSE CHILD IT IS.
THOMAS
MARIA!
WHERE IS THE SONG PRINCESS?!

MOM? SHE PROB-ABLY JUST WOKE UP...
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I WANT TO TALK TO HER.
LET ME SEE HER!
...I CAN'T.
CAIN WILL GET UPSET.
IT'S IMPOR-TANT!
MARIA
...
HE'S OUT...
...GATHERING MUSHROOMS IN THE WOODS...
HE NEVER COMES BACK UNTIL THE SUN HAS SET
SO UNTIL THEN...

MOM..
IT'S THOMAS FROM THE VILLAGE BELOW.
HE WANTS TO TALK.
EXCUSE ME
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SONG PRINCESS
I'M THOMAS, THE SON OF THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE BELOW.
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU...
MAY I?
SPEAK WITH ME?
.....
ACK!
"YOU'LL BE KILLED"
Speaking of which-

DAMN IT!!
I FORGOT!
MARIA, PLEASE GO OUTSIDE
ALL RIGHT
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, THOMAS
OKAY
YEAH, SEE YOU LATER
SLAM
Aaugh
WELL, NOW
WHAT BUSINESS DOES THE NEXT VILLAGE CHIEF HAVE
WITH A DISPOSABLE TOOL LIKE ME?
DO THEY INTEND TO WRING YET MORE OUT OF ME?
THE PARASITES, I MEAN


I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM MY FATHER TODAY
RE-
RE-GARDING THAT
SO THEN
I WON-DERED
IF WE COULDN'T CHANGE
THE RELA-TIONSHIP BE-TWEEN US,
I CAN'T HEAR

I WONDER IF THEY'RE STILL TALKING...
MOM SHOULD START SINGING BEFORE CAIN COMES BACK.
SO THOMAS WILL HAVE TO FINISH TALKING BY THEN...
"EXCUSE ME," HE SAID
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD HIM SPEAK SO POLITELY...
IT WAS KIND OF COOL
IT SEEMS CAIN DOESN'T LIKE THOMAS MUCH
BUT HE'S KIND AND HIS LOOKS ARE QUITE
MARIA?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WAI—
CAIN!
LET GO, MARIA!
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU PARA-SITE!!
GET AWAY FROM MOM!!

AHH!
THOMAS!
IT'S ALL RIGHT,
SO WAIT THERE MARIA—!
CAIN,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YANK SO MUCH, I'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWAY
SO LET—
SHUT UP, YOU BUG!
EVERY-ONE IN THE VILLAGE BELOW IS AN ENEMY
CAIN—

WANTING TO TALK IT OUT, NOW OF ALL TIMES...
THE SONG PRINCESS' QUOTA IS LEVIED BY THE COUNTRY.
WE ARE HERE TO ENSURE STRICT OBEDIENCE FROM THE SONG PRINCESS.
BUT THERE'S NO HELPING IT
THAT'S REPEATED ITSELF COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST
WE HAVE LONG BEEN FACED WITH SONG PRINCESSES WHO WANTED TO ESCAPE.
AND EVERY METHOD WE TRIED ENDED IN FAILURE
IN THE END, WE DECIDED TO SHUT THE SONG PRINCESS UP IN THE TOWER
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE LET THE SONG PRINCESS GO FREE?

"FROM THE VILLAGE CHIEF DOWN..."
"...THE VILLAGERS WOULD PAY WITH THEIR LIVES."
IT'S A MATTER OF COURSE
BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE LETTING THE COUNTRY'S GODDESS GO
WE ARE BOTH DESPERATE
IF ONE IS NOT SACRIFICED, THEY CANNOT SURVIVE.
BUT STILL...
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL BE DECEIVED!
MOM SAID THAT THE PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE SCATTER FODDER SO THAT MARIA WON'T RUN AWAY!
AND YOU'RE EXACTLY THE SAME!
I HAVE TO
PROTECT MARIA
DON'T GET MAD!
YOU'RE WRONG, CAIN!
MOM SAID HE COULD COME IN!
THOMAS SAID 'EXCUSE ME', JUST LIKE HE SHOULD...!

CAIN,
THOSE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE WILL DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO TRICK MARIA
WHY..
....MOM
THEY'LL TRICK HER SO SHE DOESN'T RUN AWAY
THEY'RE TRYING TO USE HER FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK TO DO THIS...
PLEASE,
PROTECT MARIA.
I AM HERE...
IN ORDER TO PROTECT MARIA

SEEMS HAPPIER WITHOUT ME.

CAIN

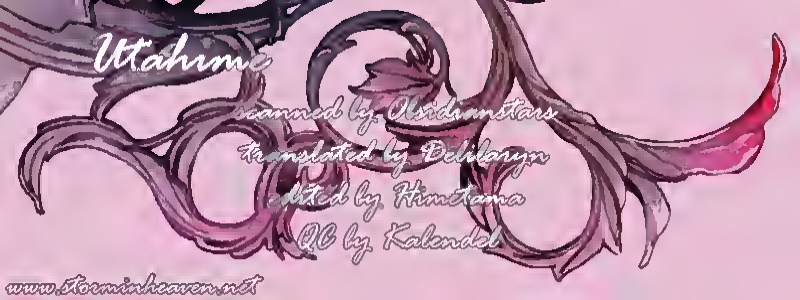
ARE

ARE YOU CRYING?
!
SMACK
NO—
I'M NOT!
CAIN—
I'M NOT CRYING!
HURRY UP AND GO AWAY!
CAIN
SOME-ONE LIKE YOU
PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME!
NEVER COME BACK AGAIN!
I WANT—

I KNOW.
TO PROTECT MARIA.
THOMAS TAKES GOOD CARE OF MARIA.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU.
YOU EVEN WON MOM OVER.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
DON'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT YOUR-SELVES, BUT STILL...
THAT'S WRONG.
THAT'S A LIE.

IT WAS ONLY THAT...
...I WAS BITTER...
ABOUT HAVING MY PLACE SNATCHED AWAY BY THOMAS
THE ONE WHO THINKS ABOUT NO-ONE BUT HIM-SELF
IS ME
BUT
I COULDN'T
SAY THAT TO ANYONE

UTAHIME CHAPTER TWO / END


Utahime
scanned by Asiadreamstars
translated by Delidanyn
edited by Himetama
QC by Kalendel
www.stormheaven.net

WHEN I WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING...
CAIN WAS GONE.
I WONDER IF...
HE'S STILL MAD ABOUT YESTER-DAY...
歌姫
HE HASN'T SAID A THING SINCE YESTER-DAY
I GUESS I HAVE TO APOLOGISE
...BUT...
CLICK
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GET SO ANGRY
MARIA!
OH? MOM.
YOU'RE AWAKE? IS EV-ERYTHING ALL R!
WHERE'S CAIN?!

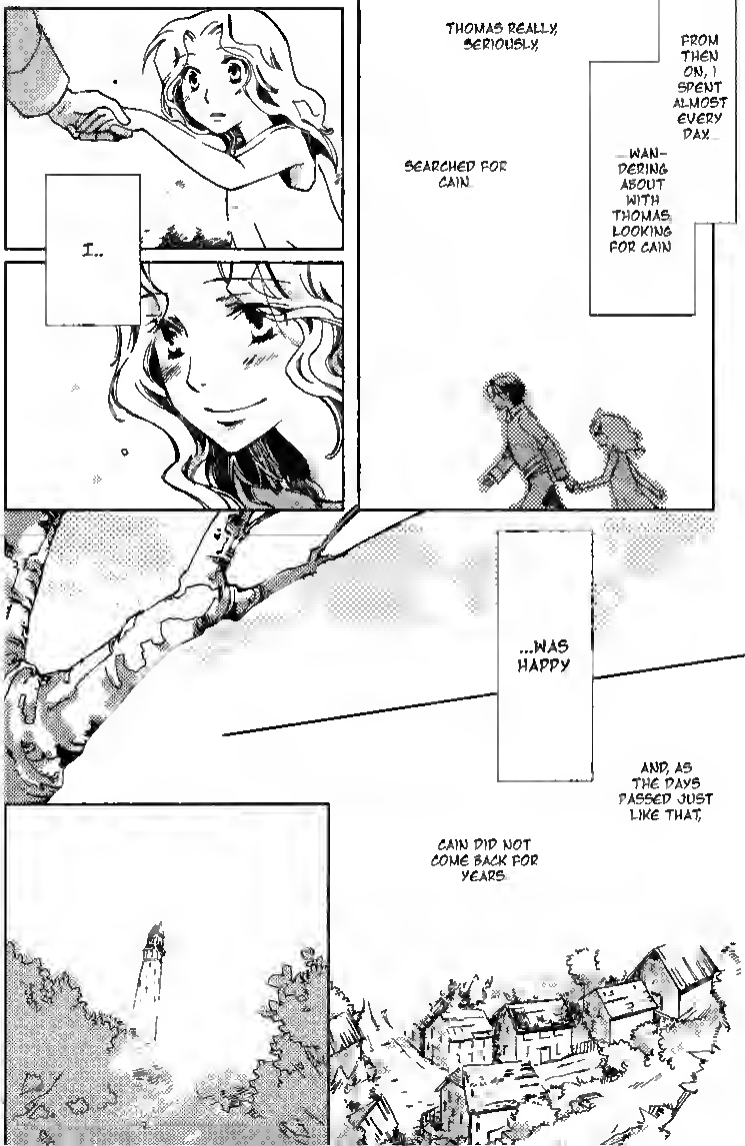
don't look for me.
Written wrong.
WHEN I CAME DOWN FROM THE TOWER THIS MORNING,
I FOUND THIS ON THE DESK.
WHA...
WHAT?!
WHAT?!
CAIN RAN AWAY?!
歌姫
UTAHIME
CHAPTER THREE

CONFUSED
WHAT-
WHAT-
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, THOMAS!
FI—
FIRST OF ALL,
CALM DOWN, MARIA
IT'S BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, ISN'T IT?
WHAT DO WE DO
MARIA
UH—
THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD LEAVE US ALONE TOGETHER, RIGHT?!
CAIN HATES ME, DOESN'T HE?!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
SO DON'T WORRY, MARIA
OKAY?
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I'LL ASK PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE TO SEARCH WITH US, TOO

TO ME, THOMAS NEVER SEEMED..
DON'T GET CLOSE ...
TO THOSE VILLAGE PEOPLE!
CAIN SAID THAT, BUT...
...TO BE A BAD PERSON LIKE THAT...
...ALL RIGHT.
WELL THEN,
SHALL WE START SEARCHING FROM HERE?
EVEN THOUGH CAIN SAID SO MANY CRUEL THINGS TO THOMAS,
THOMAS IS SEARCHING SO HARD FOR CAIN.
.....
CAN YOU SEE ANY-THING...?
...NO.
...OH
NOTHING.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.
THE FIRST TIME THAT, EVEN THOUGH—
I'M WITH THOMAS, HE ISN'T SAYING ANYTHING TO ME
IT'S THE FIRST TIME—
THAT CAIN ISN'T HERE.
—ARE YOU WORRIED?
HUH?
WELL,
YOU'VE BEEN WITH CAIN SINCE YOU WERE BORN, RIGHT?
I WAS THINKING THAT I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE—
AREN'T YOU ANXIOUS, BEING SEPARATED FOR SO LONG?

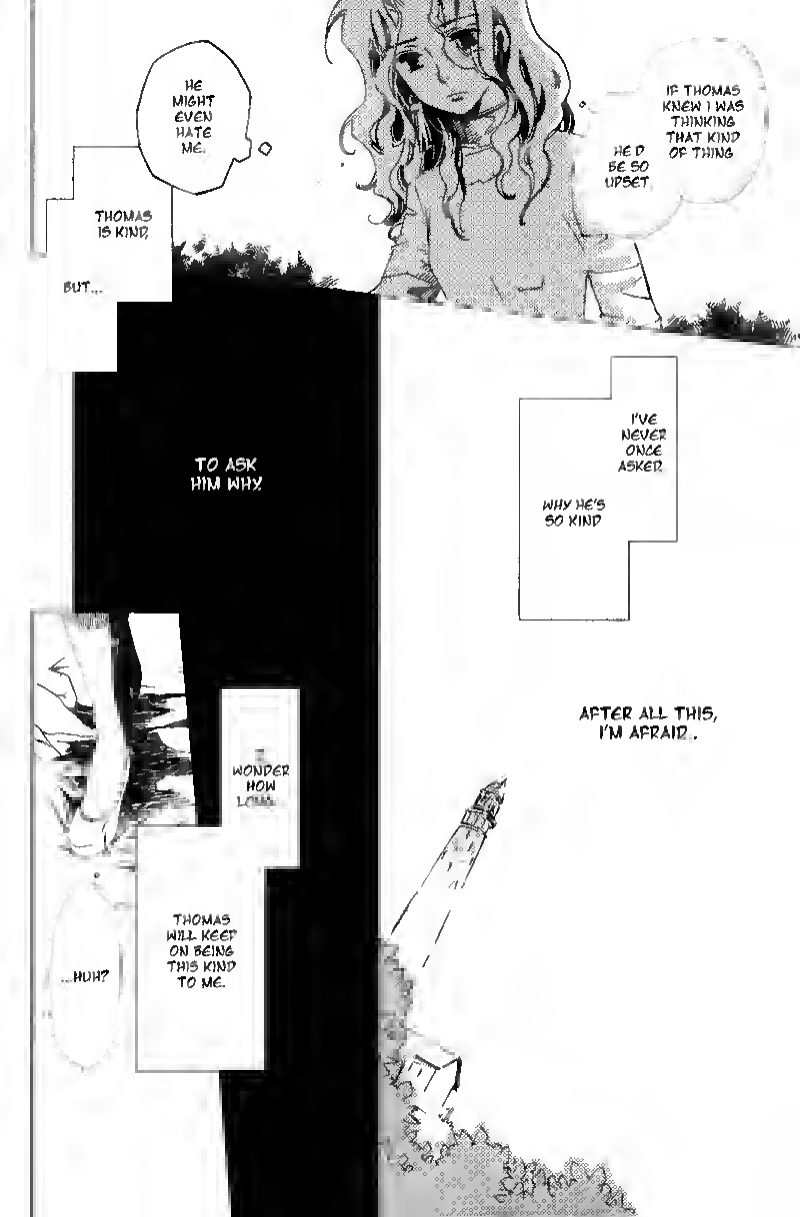
TO ME, THOUGH,
I SUPPOSE SO
YES...
THE HAPPINESS BEFORE MY EYES SEEMS GREATER THAN THE ANXIETY
IT'S THE FIRST TIME, ISN'T IT?
LIKE THIS
BUT I FEEL GUILTY SAYING THAT.
I HOPE...
...HE COMES BACK SOON.
I HOPE...
...YEAH.
THAT CAIN DOESN'T COME BACK FOR A LONG TIME.


THOMAS REALLY, SERIOUSLY,
SEARCHED FOR CAIN.
FROM THEN ON, I SPENT ALMOST EVERY DAY...
...WANDERING ABOUT WITH THOMAS, LOOKING FOR CAIN
I...
...WAS HAPPY
AND, AS THE DAYS PASSED JUST LIKE THAT,
CAIN DID NOT COME BACK FOR YEARS.

THO-MAS!
THOMAS!
HEY, DID YOU REA-LISE?
EH—
REALLY?
I DIDN'T KNOW AT ALL!
WAS ME!
THE SONG PRINCESS LAST NIGHT
WHAT?!
I THOUGHT YOU, AT LEAST, WOULD DEFINITELY NOTICE...
SORRY...
ahahah
BUT YOUR VOICE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL I COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE
YOU'VE BECOME AN AMAZING SONG PRINCESS
THIS CAKE WAS A PRESENT
BUT NOW I GUESS IT'S TO CEL-EBRATE...

ANYWAY
ABOUT CAIN...
SHE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS
Yay!
CAKE!
slush
Back then.
Yaaaay!
I ASKED AROUND DURING MY BUSINESS TRIP TO A TOWN TO THE EAST,
BUT IT SEEMS THAT NO-ONE'S SEEN HIM, AFTER ALL.
...
ABOUT CAIN...
HUH?
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S STILL SEARCH-ING FOR HIM,
IS YOU, THOMAS
WELL, I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, AREN'T I?
BUT...

I JUST WAS THINKING THAT I WAS SORRY...
YOU'RE SO BUSY WITH WORK, AND...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SORRY ABOUT.
I'M SEARCHING FOR HIM FOR MY OWN SAKE.
SO, MARIA, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT!
THOMAS...
IS SO KIND...
...OKAY
EVEN THOUGH I'M HOPING...
FOR MY OWN SAKE, THAT CAIN...
DOESN'T COME BACK.
I CAN'T SAY THAT TO THOMAS.


HE MIGHT EVEN HATE ME.
THOMAS IS KIND,
BUT...
IF THOMAS KNEW I WAS THINKING THAT KIND OF THING
HE'D BE SO UPSET
TO ASK HIM WHY.
I'VE NEVER ONCE ASKED
WHY HE'S SO KIND
AFTER ALL THIS, I'M AFRAID.
WONDER HOW LONG
THOMAS WILL KEEP ON BEING THIS KIND TO ME.
...HUH?

I WONDER IF HE HAS BUSINESS WITH MOM...
I THINK THAT'S THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME FOOD THAT TIME?
THAT'S ...IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE
WELCOME BACK.
HEY, MARIA
I'M HOME
.....
WHAT?
BOMP

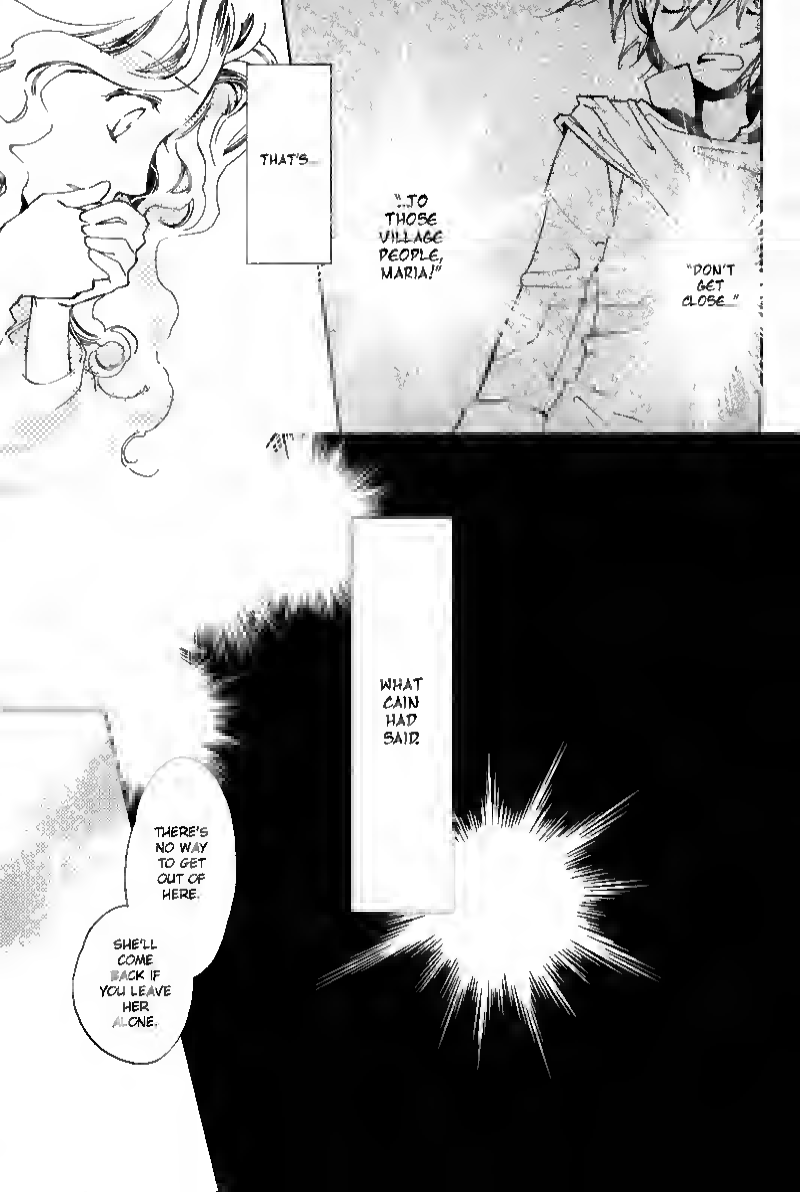
WHAT IS IT?
IT SEEMS
...THAT THE SONG PRINCESS IS RESTING RIGHT NOW.
...DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MOM?
IF SO, SHE'S SICK AND STILL SLEEPING,
SO COME BACK LATER.
SOME-THING ABOUT THIS...
LET US IN THE HOUSE
THE DOOR IS LOCKED, SO WE CAN'T GET IN
IS SCARING ME
OPEN IT.
.....
WHY...?

WHY, YOU ASK?
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT OUTSIDE, DO YOU?
I'M SAYING THIS AS A FAVOUR, YOU KNOW.
?
YOU CAN'T GO INSIDE
BECAUSE MOM IS—
WELL, THEN, OUTSIDE
.....
WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
RIGHT THERE IN THE GRASS IS FINE
ANSWER ME
IT'S ALL RIGHT
IT'LL BE OVER SOON
ANSWER ME!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

STEP BACK, MARIA
I SAW YOU GUYS COMING TOWARDS THE TOWER.
AND YOU HAD NO BUSINESS HERE, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE AND CAME BACK.
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU PLANNING AT?
DAMN
THOMAS CAME.
DIDN'T YOU GO BACK HOME?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PLANNING?
YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL.
WE THOUGHT YOU'D DO IT, BEING THE SON OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF,
SO NO-ONE EVER TOUCHED HER.
!
BUT EVEN WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS ON THE VERGE OF DYING BEFORE,
SHE HASN'T GIVEN BIRTH TO EVEN A SINGLE CHILD!
RIGHT NOW,
IF THE WORST HAPPENS AND SHE DIES,
THE SONG PRINCESS' LINE WILL END.
I—
BUT—
I KNOW THAT
BUT—
THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY THE HELL DO YOU COME HERE EVERY SINGLE DAY?!
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE TAMED HER, RIGHT?!
!
I...
..
RUSTLE

WAIT!!
MARIA!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WHAT'S NOT TRUE?
I'M...
...SUCH AN IDIOT!
YOU'RE THE SON OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF!!
SUCH AN IDIOT!
EVEN IF YOU PRETEND TO BE A GOOD PERSON, NOTHING WILL END!
DON'T YOU GET IT?!


THAT'S...
"..TO THOSE VILLAGE PEOPLE, MARIA!"
"DON'T GET CLOSE..."
WHAT CAIN HAD SAID
THERE'S NO WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE.
SHE'LL COME BACK IF YOU LEAVE HER ALONE.

THAT'S WHAT THIS COUNTRY HAS BECOME
I KNOW THAT
THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE FROM HERE EITHER
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO CONSIDER YOURSELF THE WRONG-DOER,
AND MAKE UP FOR IT BY BEING KIND.
BUT
"I WANT"
"TO PROTECT MARIA"
EVEN THOUGH
I SAID THAT TO CAIN
I KNOW VERY WELL WHY CAIN HATED ME THAT MUCH

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
I WANTED CAIN MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE TO UNDERSTAND...
THAT I HAD NO INTENTION OF USING MARIA.
BUT STILL
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO ANYTHING TO MARIA,
WHILE YOU'RE NOT HERE
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BREAK MY PROMISE LIKE THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CAIN?
HURRY!
HURRY UP AND COME BACK,
YOU IDIOT!

WOW!!
AMAZING, HE WON AGAIN!!
LAST ONE FOR TODAY!
ALL RIGHT,
toss
IF YOU MISS,
YOU GIVE UP EVERY-THING YOU HAVE ON YOU!
THIS IS AN ENTIRELY HIT-OR-MISS AFFAIR
SO WHO'S THE NEXT SUCKER?!
I'M GONNA WIN TODAY, CAIN!!
ME!
WOOOOOOAH
HERE COMES THE GOOSE WITH HIS GOLDEN EGG
WELL, THANKS!
HERE WE GO!!
BAM!
even
ODD!!
OKAY!
EVEN OR ODD?!
All right!
I SAW EVERY-THING!

YOU JUST HAVE TO GUESS THE NUMBER ON THE DICE, RIGHT?
Ahhh.
GRR—
One?
One more time!
Isn't that how it didn't?
WHO'S THAT?
HUH?
They did me you're weak, so I'll only take this.
OH, HIM?
SOME GUY WHO'S BEEN STAYING HERE FOR THE PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS
RUMOUR HAS IT THAT HE'S BEEN PRACTICALLY ROBBING CUSTOMERS THROUGH THE INN
AND ON TOP OF BEING RIDICULOUSLY STRONG HE'S GOT A FACE LIKE THAT
I thought I was gonna win for sure
But I lost
I lost too
Me too
Oh?
Suckers.
GRIN
NO THANKS
WE'LL TREAT YOU
WON'T YOU COME PLAY WITH US LADIES NOW?
CAIN-KUN!
THANKS
YOU'RE YOUNG BUT YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE HAND!
YO!
CAIN, WELL DONE TODAY!

IT'S TIME FOR KIDS TO GO TO BED!
And I'm sure you know!
YOU WOULD SAY THAT AFTER TAKING SO MUCH MONEY!
Today's victims.
HERE, MASTER, THE PAY FOR MY ROOM TONIGHT.
clink
OH— CAIN!
HEY, WORK HERE WOULD YOU?
NO WAY.
FLAT OUT
YOU KNOW
I'M SATISFIED NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK IN ONE DAY
I SAID THAT I WOULD BE TRACKED DOWN IF I STAY IN ONE PLACE, DIDN'T I?
SOMEONE'S SEARCHING FOR YOU IN YOUR HOME-TOWN, RIGHT?
DO YOU REALLY NOT WANT TO GO BACK?
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK EVEN THE TINIEST BIT.
EVEN IF I DID GO HOME—
I DON'T HAVE— A PLACE THERE—
shimy

YEAH...
A PLACE WHERE A GUY WHO CAN EARN THAT MUCH MONEY AND WHO HAS SUCH A GOOD FACE AND VOICE AND WHO'S SO INSOLENT...
YOUR HOMETOWN SOUNDS STRANGE.
JUST THE PART ABOUT BEING INSOLENT IS TOO MUCH.
THERE'S NO DOUBT...
I won't deny the rest.
THAT THOMAS AND MARIA ARE HAPPY TOGETHER NOW
SINCE THE PERSON IN THE WAY DISAP-PEARED,
I'D PAY FOR IT NOW IF I COM-PLAINED
OH!
MASTER, IT'S RAIN-ING!!
OH, RAIN?
I GUESS I'LL SLEEP WITH THE WINDOW OPEN TONIGHT.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE COULD HEAR THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE
...HUH?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT THE SONG PRINCESS?
...?
OH, I SEE, YOU DON'T KNOW
She came back.
We'll get drenched!
Who cares about that please help us clean up!

HEY
YOU CAN HEAR SOUNDS FARTHER AWAY ON RAINY DAYS, RIGHT?
THIS VILLAGE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF NO-WHERE,
SO NORMALLY WE CAN'T HEAR THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE
ONLY WHEN IT RAINS CAN WE HEAR HER VOICE
—OH?
HER VOICE IS BEAUTIFUL!
What a waste!
Weren't you listening?
WHAT?!
WHY?!
I'LL SLEEP WITH THE WINDOW SHUT.
THANKS.
I KNOW
THAT MUCH
HMPH
YOU CAN HEAR IT HERE, TOO?
I CAN'T HELP BUT REMEMBER.
WHEN I HEAR HER,
EVEN THOUGH I'VE SPENT YEARS TRAVELLING

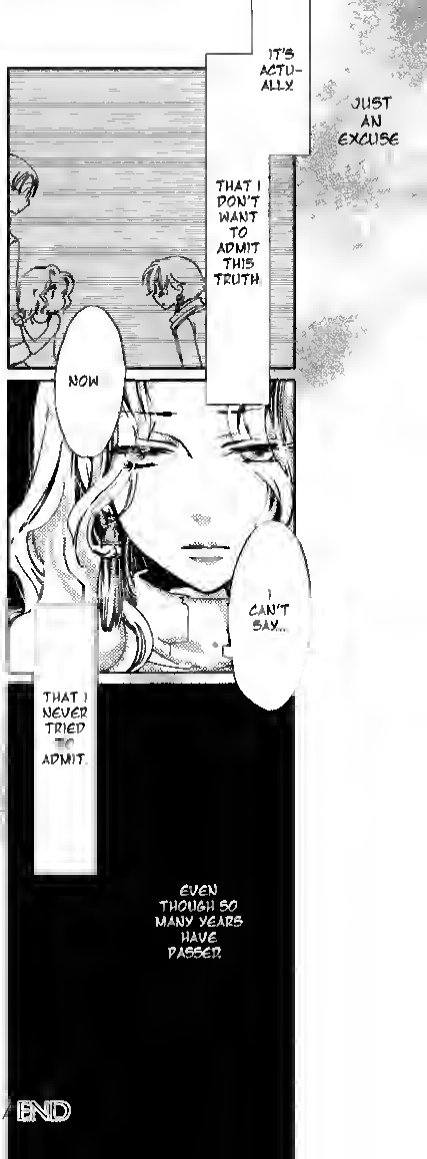
I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY...
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT SHE'S GETTING WET.
...I'M SO STUPID...
.....
...IT MUST BE RAINING WHERE MARIA IS TOO...
THE RAIN CLOUDS ARE PRETTY HEAVY...
I CAN'T...
...GO BACK THERE ANY MORE.
IN SPITE OF THAT,
WHAT MAKES ME WORRY ABOUT HER...
pitter
patter
IS PROBABLY MY OWN SELFISHNESS, JUST LIKE BACK THEN.

THOMAS
...CAME TODAY, TOO.
WE HAVEN'T TALKED...
SINCE THAT DAY
BUT HE COMES EVERY DAY
THOSE PEOPLE SAID THEY WEREN'T COMING BECAUSE THOMAS IS HERE.
BUT...
I KNOW THAT HE'S PROTECTING ME.
WHY IS HE PROTECTING ME?
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE TAMED HER, RIGHT?!

BUT...
IT'S BECAUSE THOMAS IS KIND.
THAT'S WHY
I'M NOT BEING TAMED OR ANYTHING.
THAT'S WRONG.
WHY IS HE SO KIND?
I'VE NEVER ASKED.
MARIA.

GASP
MOM!
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE UP?
CAIN
HAS HE COME BACK YET?
OH—
NO,
NOT YET...
.....
OH...
CAN YOU EAT SOMETHING?
WOULD YOU LIKE SOUP OR SOMETHING?
NO, I'M FINE
CLANK
...MOM IS WORRIED ABOUT CAIN...
EVERY DAY...
WELL,
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
...

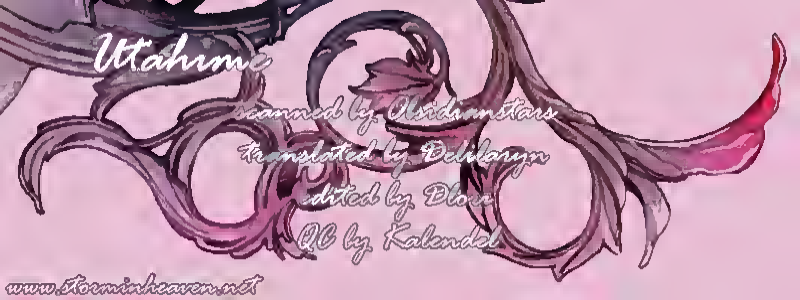
HEY, MARIA
YES? WHAT IS IT?
.....
NO
IT'S NOTHING
DON'T MIND ME
?
REALLY?
I DIDN'T TELL MOM ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN.
AFTER ALL...
...I DON'T WANT TO WORRY HER...
click
.....
clack
THAT'S...


IT'S ACTU-ALLY
JUST AN EXCUSE
THAT I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT THIS TRUTH
NOW
I CAN'T SAY...
THAT I NEVER TRIED TO ADMIT.
EVEN THOUGH SO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED.

IT WAS JUST ..

THAT I WAS WRONG

NO MORE THAN STUB-BORNNESS.


Utahime
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歌姫
UTAHIME
CHAPTER FOUR

YAWN
AHH~
I'M BORED.
Hmm
I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO GO BACK
ESPE-CIALLY SINCE I'M NOT STRAPPED FOR CASH OR ANY-THING
Huh?
IF YOU'RE SO WOR-RIED, THEN WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A VISIT BACK HOME?
I DO WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON BACK HOME, BUT...
I'm going to die of boredom
YAWN
THERE'S ABSO-LUTELY NOTHING TO DO.
THEN WORK!
workers
NEWS FROM MY HOMETOWN SHOULDN'T REACH THIS FAR
.....
I'M BORED
IF THINGS HAD ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS, WITH NOTHING HAP-PENING...
I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE EVER GONE BACK HOME
EXCUSE ME
CLATTER.

COULD WE PERHAPS...
SIT NEXT TO YOU?
YES, THERE.
...GO AHEAD.
rattle
OH, MY, THANK YOU
Thanks

WELL...
DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH ME?
HAULING THOSE CHAIRS TO SIT HERE
...?
.....
RATTLE RATTLE
WHERE DO WE GO?

MASTER! JUICE, PLEASE!
I CAN HAVE LIQUOR, AT LEAST!
I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

I BET THEY DO.
.....?
PEOPLE SAY THAT A LOT
IT CARRIES WELL.
YOU HAVE A NICE VOICE.
.....

YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE REPUTATION AROUND HERE.
THANKS. FAME IS THE TOOL OF MY TRADE, YOU KNOW
SO,
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT!
WAIT UNTIL YOUR JUICE COMES.
I DON'T NEED IT!
IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO, RIGHT?
I heard you!
WH--
OH, IT'S HERE! THANK YOU!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S HERE! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
.....
FROM THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING, YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T REALIZED IT ABOUT YOURSELF
HUH?
He's accepting it properly

BUT IF SOMEONE ASKS,
YOU'LL KNOW RIGHT AWAY.
SO, WHAT PLACE...
CALLS YOU THEIR SONG PRINCESS?
CLATTER
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS.
YOU'LL DROP THE CUP.
GRAB
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M HERE TO ARREST YOU OR ANYTHING. RELAX.
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
RATTLE
RATTLE

I JUST SAID IT, DIDN'T I?
YOUR VOICE GIVES YOU AWAY
I'M TELLING YOU TO BE CARE-FUL
SINCE YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF RUNNING SO FAR AWAY
BE CARE-FUL?
GIVES ME AWAY?
?
SOMEHOW, I THINK WE'RE TALKING ABOUT COM-PLETELY DIF-FERENT THINGS
DID YOU COME TO SEARCH FOR ME ON THOMAS' RE-QUEST?
HEY,
THOMAS? I DON'T KNOW HIM.
?
HUH? THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I'M RUNNING AWAY?

WHAT ?!
WELL, BECAUSE YOU'RE A SONG PRINCESS, RIGHT?
...
NO, NO, THAT'S COMPLETELY WRONG.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
BUT YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY, RIGHT?
THAT'S...
I RAN AWAY FROM HOME...
SO A FRIEND IS LOOKING FOR ME...
RAN AWAY FROM HOME?
SEE, EMMA,
IT'S SOME KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING AFTER ALL...

I MEAN, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT HIM, HE'S A GUY.
I KNOW THAT MUCH!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT LET GO OF MY HAND!
YOU'RE NOT A SONG PRINCESS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE THE ONE SAYING I'M A SONG PRINCESS I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE ASKING YOU THAT!
IT'S TRUE THAT MY OLDER SISTER IS A SONG PRINCESS,
BUT I'M DEFINITELY NOT!
NOW LET GO OF MY HAND!!
HER BROTHER?
THAT'S RIGHT. HER BROTHER.
I DIDN'T THINK MY VOICE WAS ANYTHING LIKE MARIA'S, THOUGH.

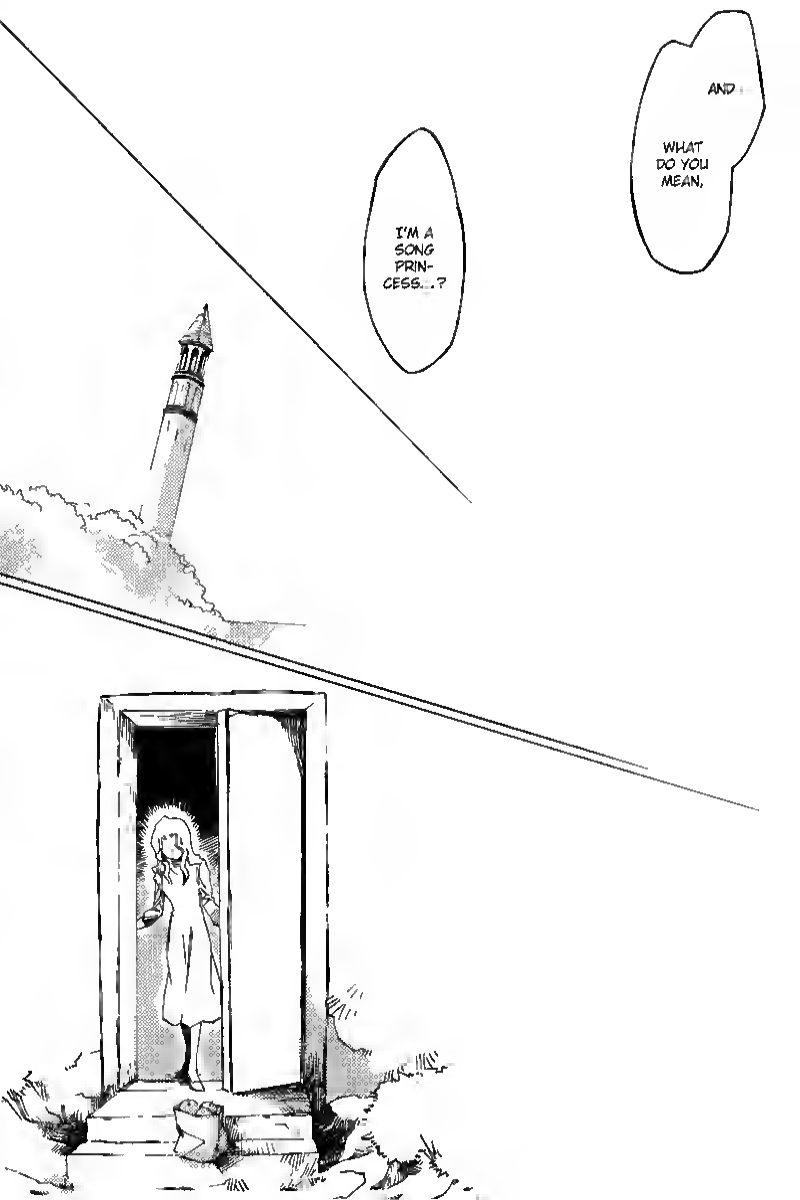
Oh?
BUT YOU'RE RELATED TO A SONG PRINCESS, AT LEAST.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!
MY HAND!
.....
?
WOW EMMA IS ELECTED OF YOU YOU'RE AMAZING!
...?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
LIKE I SAID! HE'S THE BROTHER OF A SONG PRINCESS, SO THEIR VOICES WOULD SOUND ALIKE, RIGHT?
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A MALE SONG PRINCESS!
Sigh
I'M SORRY, I STOPPED HER A BUNCH OF TIMES, BUT...
EMMA KEPT ON SAYING THAT SHE COULDN'T BE WRONG, SO SHE HAD TO ASK..
ALL RIGHT, EMMA, LET'S GO!
STOMP
OUCH!
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THE NOISE.
Ouuu

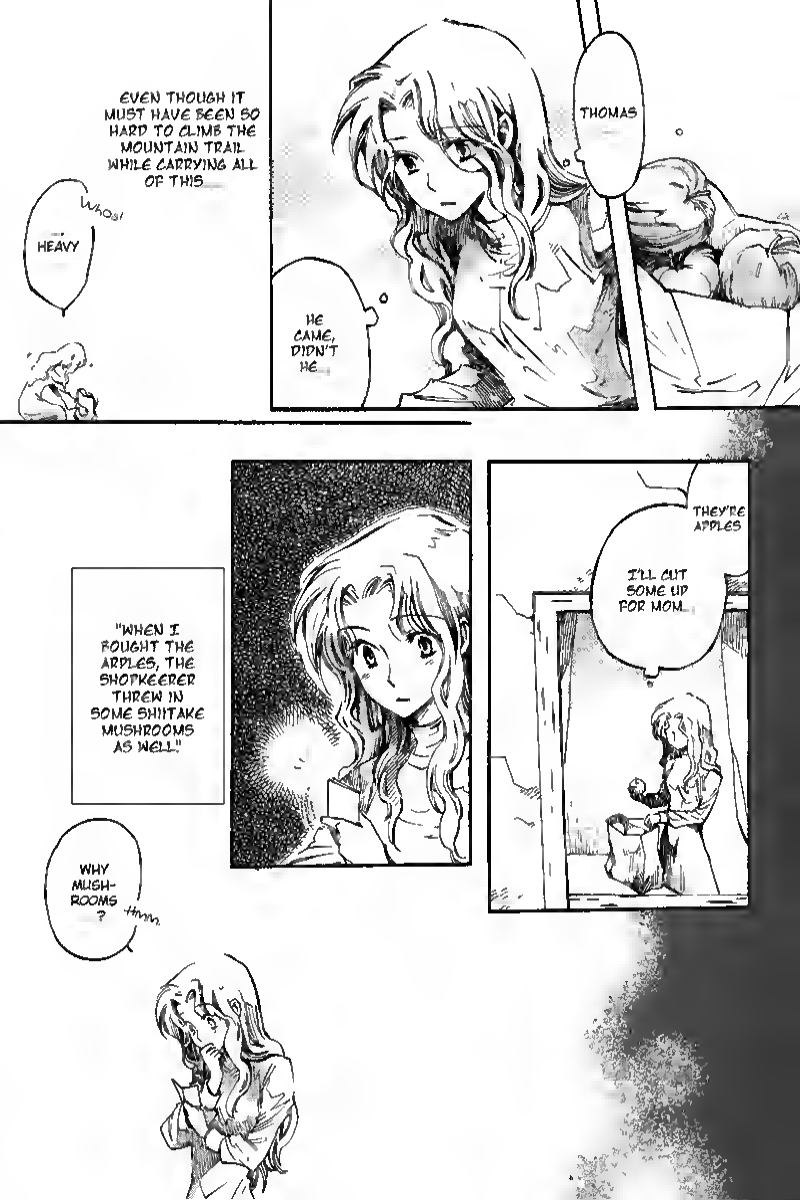
EXCUSE ME
I..
I REALLY AM NOT A SONG PRINCESS..
AM I OBLIGED TO STATE THAT I AM?
WHY SO POLITE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
?
NO, that's not!
WELL,
IF YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED IT YOURSELF, THEN WE'LL WIND UP ARGUING NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO TELL YOU
LET GO
I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO ARE SONG PRINCESSES AND PEOPLE WHO AREN'T BY THEIR VOICES..
TELL THE DIFFERENCE?
YEAH
HAVE YOU EVER TALKED TO ANOTHER SONG PRINCESS?
NO..
ASIDE FROM MY MOTHER AND MY SISTER, I'VE NEVER..
I THOUGHT SO

I'VE TRAVELLED A LOT AND HEARD THE VOICES OF MANY SONG PRINCESSES
THE STRANGE THING IS, THEY ALL SOUND EXACTLY THE SAME
BUT REGULAR PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IT AT ALL
SO IF YOU WANT TO HIDE IT, YOU CAN
...WHA?!
RATTLE
HUH?
JUST NOW ...!
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH?

JUST NOW!
SHE—
SOUNDED JUST LIKE MOM..!
YOU MIMIC!
How could you mimic a hermit like her?!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MIS-TAKEN.
AGAIN!
?
THAT'S HOW SHE ALWAYS SOUNDS
IS EMMA DOING SOMETHING AGAIN?
I'M SORRY! I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING...
?? THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM...
YOU HAVE GOOD EARS
YOU'RE THE REAL THING
.....IT'S BACK TO NORMAL...
I SAID IT, DIDN'T I? YOU CAN HIDE IT
...!

THAT'S...
WELL, IT'S A BIT LATE, BUT LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M EMMA.
I'M A SONG PRINCESS IN A TOWN UP NORTH.
AND HE'S MY BODYGUARD FOR THE MOMENT.
HIS NAME IS REALLY LONG, SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT, BUT YOU CAN CALL HIM GACY.
Right?
...I'M CAIN...
I KNOW
I ALREADY SAID YOU'RE FAMOUS AROUND HERE
WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE A SONG PRINCESS...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
HOW DID YOU GET AWAY FROM YOUR TOWN?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR TOWN, IS IT OKAY?
Why don't you sit down?


AND
WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
I'M A SONG PRIN-CESS...?


EVEN THOUGH IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD TO CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL WHILE CARRYING ALL OF THIS...
Whoa!
HEAVY
THOMAS...
HE CAME, DIDN'T HE...
THEY'RE APPLES
I'LL CUT SOME UP FOR MOM...
"WHEN I BOUGHT THE APPLES, THE SHOPKEEPER THREW IN SOME SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS AS WELL."
WHY MUSH-ROOMS?
Hmm

"THE APPLES ARE FOR YOUR MOTHER"
"TAKE CARE"
I KNOW...
THAT HE WASN'T DECEIVING ME.
HE REALLY ISN'T...
THE KIND OF CLEVER PERSON WHO CAN TRICK SOMEONE...
.....
I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ONE BY ONE, SO CALM DOWN

FIRST OF ALL... THE REASON WHY I, A SONG PRINCESS, AM HERE.
THE NORTH PART OF THIS COUNTRY... WELL, QUITE A WHILE BACK, THERE WAS THAT SKIRMISH WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY, RIGHT?
...NEVER HEARD OF IT.
WELL, THERE WAS.
AND SO THE BORDER BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES CHANGED.
There
Town
Town
Here
There
Town
Town
Here
AND A TOWN THAT WAS NEAR THE BORDER IN THE OTHER COUNTRY...
BECAME PART OF THIS COUNTRY'S TERRITORY.
SO THERE WERE TWO SONG PRINCESSES IN THAT AREA...?
RIGHT.
THAT'S EXACTLY IT
THERE HADN'T BEEN ANY INTERCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO, SO THEY DIDN'T KNOW.
BUT THAT TOWN HAD ITS OWN SONG PRINCESS, TOO
DO YOU GET WHAT THAT MEANS?

I CAN'T BE WITHOUT MY KEEPER, THOUGH
I'M NOT A KEEPER! I'M YOUR BODY-GUARD!
...WHAT
SO THEY KEPT IT A SECRET FROM THE COUNTRY AND MERGED TOGETHER
THE TWO OF US SWITCH OFF SINGING EVERY THREE YEARS
SO RIGHT NOW, I'M FREE
...BEING A SONG PRINCESS IS SOMETHING PASSED DOWN FROM MOTHER TO A SINGLE DAUGHTER, RIGHT?
LEAVING ME OUT OF IT, IT'S A GIVEN THAT MARIA IS A SONG PRINCESS
BUT JUST LOOKING AT YOU, YOU ALREADY GO AGAINST ALL LOGIC
IF YOU GO BY LOGIC!
YEAH, IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE...
SO YOU JUST GOT LUCKY...
I can't do that!
IF YOUR SISTER IS A SONG PRINCESS, TOO, THEN MAYBE YOUR TOWN CAN DO THE SAME THING
BUT...

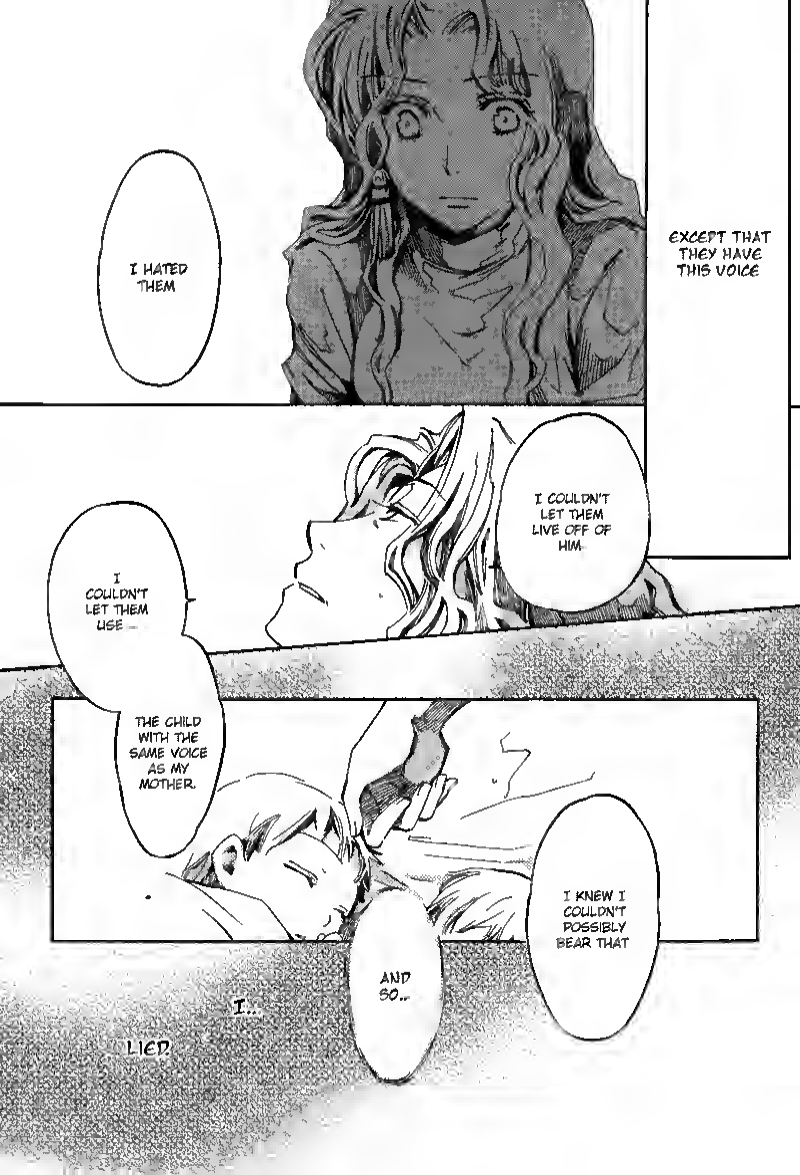
SO THEN I'M LUCKY, TOO?
I'M NOT SURE YOU COULD SAY THAT, EITHER
WHICH ONE IS IT?!
Hmm
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT WORRIES ME,
ABOUT SAYING THAT YOU'RE JUST LUCKY.
SONG PRINCESSES KNOW WHAT THE VOICE OF A SONG PRINCESS SOUNDS LIKE...
AND EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A MAN, YOU HAVE THE VOICE AND THE EARS OF A SONG PRINCESS, WITHOUT A DOUBT
IN OTHER WORDS,
YOUR MOTHER MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WERE A SONG PRINCESS...
BUT IF SO,
THEN WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU?

...MOM,
ARE YOU DONE WITH THE APPLE?
AH...
.....
?
WHAT?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU
.....
THERE'S SOME-THING
I HAVE TO TELL YOU
DIDN'T SHE JUST NOT REALISE IT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT?

BEFORE, YOU COULD TELL FROM MY VOICE, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO WAY SHE DIDN'T REALISE.
YOU MUST SOUND JUST LIKE YOUR OWN MOTHER!
EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE KNEW, EVEN IF YOU WERE TWINS.
A SONG PRINCESS WILL ALWAYS KNOW A SONG PRINCESS' VOICE
BESIDES, WHAT YOU SAID...
WAS THAT I SOUNDED JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
YOU DIDN'T SAY THAT I SOUNDED LIKE YOUR SISTER.

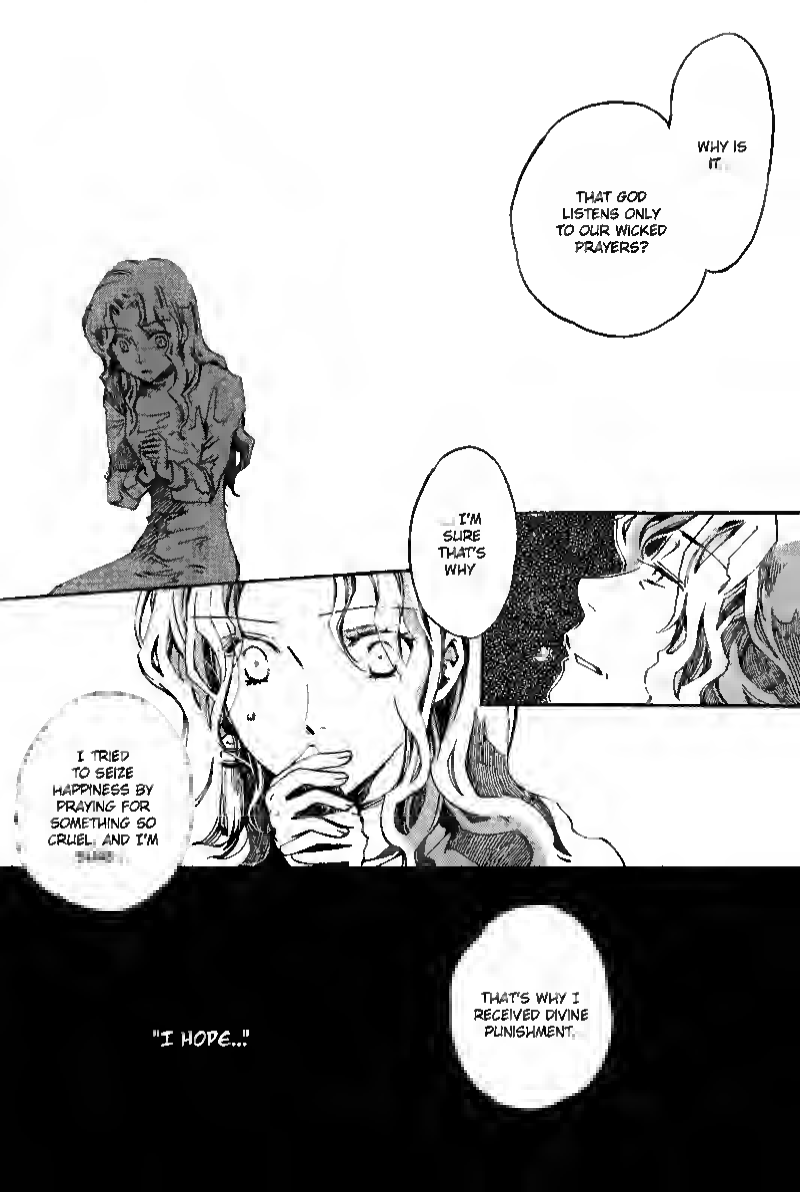
...BE-CAUSE...
MARIA'S VOICE...
DID SOUND
KIND OF LIKE MOM'S,
BUT NOT ENOUGH TO MISTAKE THEM..
...IF YOUR SISTER WERE A SONG PRIN-CESS,
THEN YOU WOULD HAVE REALISED THAT SHE HAD THE SAME VOICE AS YOU AND YOUR MOTHER
MARIA IS A SONG PRIN-CESS!
BE-CAUSE EVERY-ONE IN THE VIL-LAGE,
AND THOMAS, TOO—
THEY ALL SAID MARIA WAS THE SONG PRIN-CESS!
THEY WERE SO...

BUT...
BUT CAIN'S VOICE WAS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE SAME AS MINE AND MY MOTHER'S
I'D NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE A BOY SONG PRINCESS
AT FIRST, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER.
NO ONE...
EVER SUSPECTED A THING.
NO ONE... KNOWS
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE
AND I THOUGHT
HOW VERY STRANGE IT WAS...
AND THEY KEPT HIS LOCKED UP,
SUPPOSEDLY REVERING THEIR GRACIOUS, BELOVED SONG PRINCESS ALL THE WHILE...
THEY...
THEY WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING...


EXCEPT THAT THEY HAVE THIS VOICE
I HATED THEM
I COULDN'T LET THEM LIVE OFF OF HIM.
I COULDN'T LET THEM USE...
THE CHILD WITH THE SAME VOICE AS MY MOTHER.
I KNEW I COULDN'T POSSIBLY BEAR THAT
AND SO...
I...
LIED.

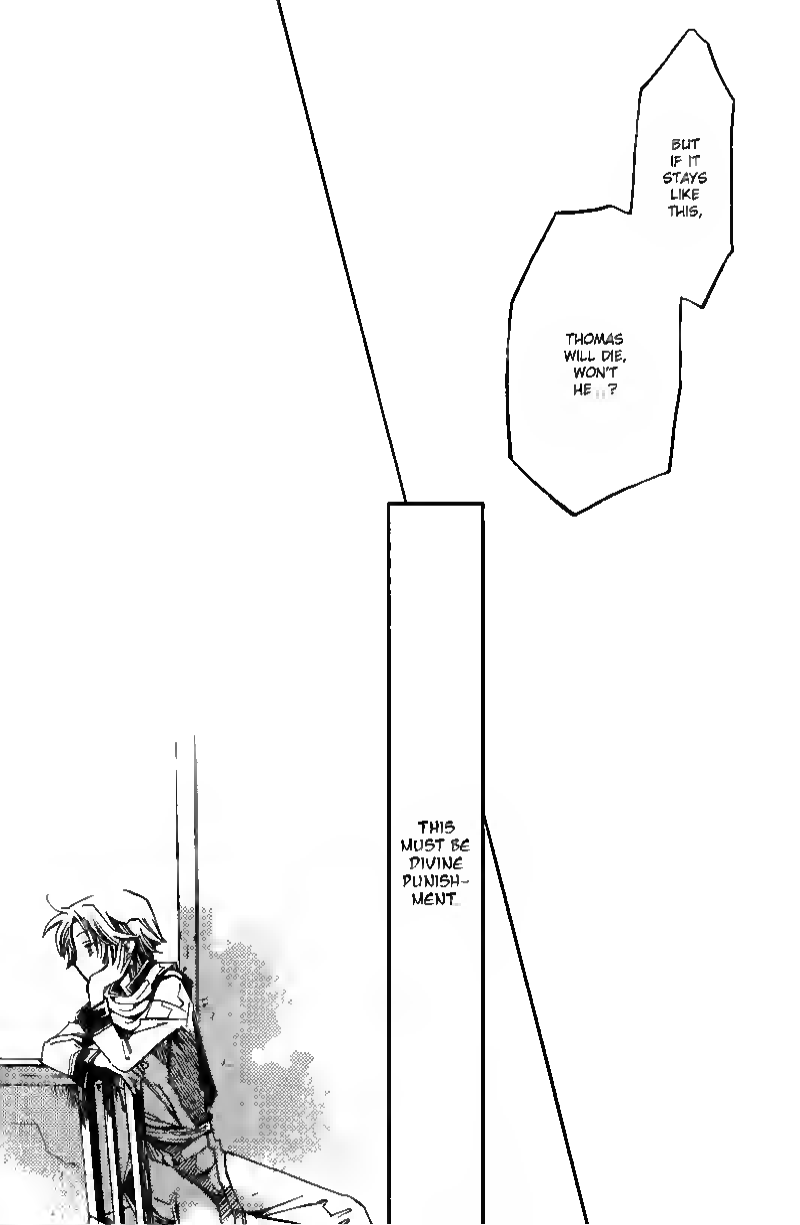
I KEPT ON SAYING THAT MARIA WAS THE SONG PRINCESS...
SO THAT HE COULD ESCAPE SOMEDAY
IF THE SONG PRINCESS ESCAPED, IT WOULD ALL BE OVER FOR THE VILLAGE.
EVERYONE SHOULD JUST DIE ALL OF THEM!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
BUT...
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANYONE FROM THE VILLAGE,
BEFORE I KNEW IT,
YOU TWO HAD BECOME FRIENDS...
WITH THE SON OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF.

THEY SHOULD JUST DIE?
REALLY?
IF HE DIED,
THE CHILDREN WOULD BE HEARTBROKEN...
YES.
JUST WHEN I STARTED THINKING THAT,
CAIN DISAPPEARED...

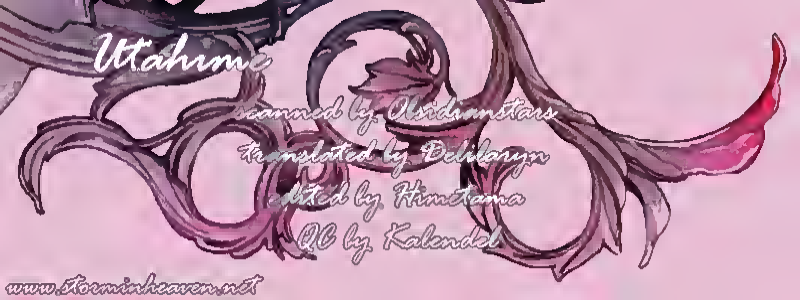

WHY IS IT...
THAT GOD LISTENS ONLY TO OUR WICKED PRAYERS?
...I'M SURE THAT'S WHY
I TRIED TO SEIZE HAPPINESS BY PRAYING FOR SOMETHING SO CRUEL. AND I'M
THAT'S WHY I RECEIVED DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
"I HOPE..."

"THAT CAIN NEVER COMES BACK!"

IT'S BECAUSE...
YOU AREN'T A SONG PRINCESS
THAT YOU DIDN'T REALISE IT.
SOMEONE WHO ISN'T A SONG PRINCESS
DOESN'T HAVE THE POWER TO KEEP SINGING FOR YEARS OR DECADES ON END.
AND OF COURSE, SUCH A PERSON COULDN'T PROTECT THE COUNTRY, EITHER.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE BELIEVES IT HERSELF,
EVEN IF SHE CAN'T TELL HOW THEIR VOICES ARE DIFFERENT,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UP THE DECEPTION FOREVER
BUT...!
BUT, MOM!


BUT IF IT STAYS LIKE THIS,
THOMAS WILL DIE, WON'T HE...?
THIS MUST BE DIVINE PUNISH-MENT.

NOW HE'S WORRYING ABOUT IT.
.....
WHAT DO WE DO, EMMA?
WHAT DO WE DO...?
HE KEEPS INSISTING THAT HIS SISTER IS A SONG PRINCESS
AND I KNOW HE DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT...
AND THINKING ABOUT HOW HIS MOTHER MUST HAVE FELT, KNOWING HE WAS A SONG PRINCESS AND LETTING HIM ESCAPE..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ADVICE TO GIVE HIM...
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HE HAS TO DECIDE HIMSELF...
BUT EMMA,
I THINK THAT YOUR MEDDLING IS WHAT'S MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
That's what I think!
Take the worse guesses!
I KNOW!
UTAHIME CHAPTER FOUR / END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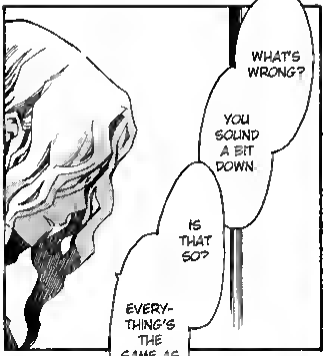
歌姫
UTAHIME
THE CRAFTSMAN
SNAP
MARIA,
ARE YOU AWAKE?
knock
knock
MARIA?


WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU SOUND A BIT DOWN.
IS THAT SO?
EVERY-THING'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS

REALLY?
THAT'S GOOD.

IF ANY-THING HAPPENS, TELL ME RIGHT AWAY.
OKAY, MARIA?
I'LL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN

YES,
I'M AWAKE, THOMAS

...I'M ALL RIGHT
IT'S NOTHING.

歌姫

UTAHIME

CHAPTER FIVE

EMMA!
EMMA!
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
Huh?
WHAT'S WRONG?
RATTLE
TODAY, TOO!
I'M OVER-WHELMED AND DELIGHTED THAT I'M SUR-ROUNDED BY SUCH LOVELY LADIES!
Hello!
Eyo.
THAT LADY OVER THERE DID ME THE HONOUR OF COMING YESTERDAY, DID YOU NOT?
YE—
YES!
I BROUGHT A FRIEND WITH ME TODAY
OH, MY, THANK YOU KINDLY

IT'S LIKE HE USES HIS POPULARITY TO FULLY ENJOY THE WORLD, ISN'T IT
hmph

AND WHAT'S WITH THAT BUSINESS SMILE OF HIS!

Yes please!
kyaa~
kyaa~
IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME I'LL ESCORT THE LADY
WHO BRINGS ME THE MOST WINS TONIGHT

LOOKS LIKE THE SINGLE LADIES ARE MORE WILLING TO PAY UP THAN THE OLD MEN OF THE WORLD
HE'S A BIG HIT NOW THAT HE'S CHANGED THE WAY HE DOES THINGS

BUT YOU KNOW,
ISN'T IT BETTER FOR EVERYONE TO KNOW HOW AMAZING A SONG PRINCESS' VOICE IS BY LETTING HIM USE HIS SKILLS TO HIS ADVANTAGE AND WORK LIKE THIS,
RATHER THAN RESTRICTING HIM TO SINGING IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT?
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE EFFECTS OF A SONG PRINCESS SINGING ARE HARD TO UNDERSTAND

I'M GOING TO GO OUT FOR A BIT
AGAIN?!

EMMA!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T KNOW THE RESULTS OF ITS OWN ACTIONS
Can we keep him?!
YEAH, I GUESS SO

WHEN EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN ON LEAVING?
TO-MOR-ROW!
HEY, WAIT A MOM-ENT!
YOU SAID THAT AT THE LAST INN WE STAYED AT AND THE ONE BEFORE THAT, AND WE WOUND UP STAYING FOR AGES!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO HOME, JUST SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT!
wave
wave
IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT? IT'S A NICE INN, AFTER ALL
I'D RATHER STAY IN A CHEAPER ONE!
WE'RE HERE BE-CAUSE YOU SAID YOU WANTED AN EXPENSIVE PLACE!
THE PEOPLE AT CHEAPER INNS WON'T FORK OVER AS MUCH MONEY!
Blink
THIS IS A VICIOUS CYCLE!
You're the worst!
YOU'RE SO RUDE! CALL IT AN EXQUISITE BALANCE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND!!
BUT THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE CAPITAL, THE HIGHER THE INN CHARGES WILL BE, RIGHT?
What're you talkin' about?
Huh?
SO WON'T THE RICHEST PEOPLE BE NEAR THE CAPITAL?
AND IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR CAIN, TOO, IF WE HURRIED UP AND WENT TO THE CAPITAL RATHER THAN STAY HERE FOR SO LO—
MMPH!
YOU—
DON'T SAY SOME-THING SO UNCALLED FOR, YOU...
!!

EMMA, YOU BITCH!
LET GO, YOU MORON!
OH, SHIT!
I WON'T RUN AWAY IF YOU LET GO,
OUCH!!
OW, OW, THAT HURTS!
REALLY, REALLY!
LET GO OF MY EAR!!
REALLY!
THAT HURTS!
I'M SERI-OUS!
STRIDE
STRIDE
LET GO, DON'T LET GO— YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
DON'T LET GO ALL OF A SUDDEN!
LET GO

IT'S PRETTY FAR TO THE NEXT INN,
SO TODAY WE'RE WALKING WITHOUT A BREAK
WHAT?!
THAT'S — DON'T MIX UP A WEAK MAN'S LEGS WITH YOUR LEGS OF STEEL!
There's no way!
WHAT?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM COMPARING MY LEGS TO STEEL!
serious
MY LEGS AREN'T MEANT FOR PHYSICAL LABOUR.
IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS BORN
What's with that excuse?
YOU REALLY JUST DON'T WANT TO WALK, DO YOU
NO, THAT'S NOT IT
YOU REALLY JUST DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GO HOME.
NO, THAT'S NOT PAR-TICU-LAR-LY...
HEY, YOU

WHY DON'T YOU TRY...
DECIDING ONE THING ON YOUR OWN?!
FOR A WHILE NO,
FROM THE MOMENT WE MET, YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED A SINGLE THING ON YOUR OWN
EVEN WHEN I ASKED WHY YOU LEFT YOUR VILLAGE,
YOU SAID IT WAS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GET BETWEEN YOUR SISTER AND THOMAS OR WHATEVER HIS NAME WAS!
YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE BEING JERKED AROUND BY OTHER PEOPLE'S CIRCUMSTANCES,
BUT IN THE END, YOU JUST COULDN'T STAND BEING THERE, RIGHT?
IS IT THAT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS YOU BLAME SOMEONE ELSE?
SO YOU LET ME DRAG YOU ALONG,
GO AS FAR AS THE CAPITAL,
AND THEN WHAT?
DID YOU PLAN ON SAYING 'IT'S HER FAULT BECAUSE SHE BROUGHT ME WITH HER' IF ANYTHING HAPPENED?
NO, I...

I DIDN'T PLAN ON...
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T PLAN ON DOING IT, IT'S ALL THE SAME, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?
NOTHING TO SAY TO THAT?
...
IT'S NOT THAT I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY, TO THAT.
I'M THINKING ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW
...DON'T YOU THINK THAT EXCUSE IS WAY TOO LAME?
OH!
I THINK THAT WAS PRETTY LAME, TOO!!
YOUR TIMING IS REALLY ANNOYING!!
Shut up, would you!!
Ow that hurts that hurts!
HEY, CAIN
.....
LEAVE YOUR OWN SITUATION OUT OF IT FOR THE MOMENT.
IF YOUR SISTER REALLY ISN'T A SONG PRINCESS,

THEN THERE'S NO SONG PRINCESS IN YOUR VILLAGE RIGHT NOW.
WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS, IT'S JUST AS BAD AS IF THE SONG PRINCESS HAD ESCAPED
UNDERSTAND?
...BUT MARIA'S THERE...
WE AREN'T TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE HOPING FOR
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IF SHE'S NOT A SONG PRINCESS
AND CUT IT OUT WITH THE RUNNING BUSINESS
.....
ANYWAY, THERE ISN'T A SONG PRINCESS THERE NOW
IF IT WERE YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WHAT WOULD I DO...?
IF YOU WERE IN HER PLACE.
Even if you say that...
WOULD YOU WAIT UNTIL THE SONG PRINCESS WHO HAD LEFT CAME BACK?
BUT IF YOU DIDN'T SING, IT WOULD GET OUT THAT YOU WERE A FAKE.

JUST NOW...
.....?
...WHAT WAS THAT?
WELL...
FOR THE TIME BEING, I'D SING, I GUESS?
BECAUSE REGULAR PEOPLE CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE RIGHT?
NO, THEY CAN'T.
TIME IS THE ONLY THING...
...THAT SEPARATES THE REAL THING FROM THE FAKE.
BUT CAIN,
...HOW MANY YEARS ...HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT HOME?

BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
WHAT'S WRONG, OR HOW...
I'VE FELT LIKE... SOMETHING HAS BEEN WRONG FOR A WHILE...
...I WONDER WHAT IT IS.
MY VOICE... MY THROAT?
IS IT BECAUSE I'M NOT A SONG PRINCESS, AFTER ALL?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I MUSN'T THINK LIKE THAT.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION.
SEE? I'M JUST FINE.
IT'S NOTHING AT ALL
NO-ONE IN THE VILLAGE HAS REALISED
MARIA

SEE?
NO ONE HAS REALISED, NOT EVEN THOMAS
...I'M FINE
NOTHING'S HAPPENED, REALLY
HAS ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR HAPPENED LATELY?
I BROUGHT LOTS OF FRUIT TODAY
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAS CHANGED
I'M FINE
I'M FINE
THOMAS!
HOW IS THE SONG PRINCESS DOING?
NOTHING HAS CHANGED
SHE SEEMS A BIT UNWELL,
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG IN PARTICULAR.
I SEE

WELL...
EVERYONE'S A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE NEXT SONG PRINCESS...
AND SINCE HER MOTHER PASSED AWAY...
IT MUST BE LONELY FOR HER, LIVING ALL ALONE...
WHAT WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON, I WISH CAIN WOULD COME BACK SOON...
YEAH, ME TOO
BUT IS HE REALLY GOING TO COME BACK?
Ahaha
OF COURSE HE'S BOUND TO COME BACK SOMETIME
BUT STILL, IF HE DIED SOMEPLACE, HE WOULDN'T COME BACK, RIGHT?
HUH?
LIKE IN AN ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE...
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT HE HASN'T DIED, IS THERE?

WHAT, DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE?!
WAIT- WHAT?!
HUH?
REALLY?
THAT'S FINE THEN...
NO, NO WAY! I'VE THOUGHT THAT FAR, AT LEAST!
I MEAN, I AM THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, RIGHT? AHAHAH!
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
Haha-
That's right!
Ahahaha- haha-

IF CAIN... ...REALLY NEVER COMES BACK...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IF HE COULDN'T COME BACK...
IF HE WERE DEAD...
I CAN'T JINX HIM BY THINK-ING THAT!
BUT...
.....

HMM,
THE CAPITAL REALLY IS QUITE LIVELY, ISN'T IT!
RIGHT!
ISN'T IT AMAZING, CAIN?
.....
CAN WE REALLY HEAR THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE LIKE THIS?
NO, WE CAN'T
Oh, what a pretty glass!
IT'S TOO NOISY.
THAT'S WHY I HATE COUNTRY PEOPLE
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD HEAR HER IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, NOW, IS THERE?
HOW STUPID.
HUH?

IF YOU WANT TO HEAR THE SONG PRINCESS, THEN LISTEN CAREFULLY FROM THE SUBURBS WHEN IT'S NIGHT AND EVERYTHING HAS QUIETED DOWN.
BUT EVEN DOING THAT, A NORMAL PERSON PROBABLY COULDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
—YOU CAN'T HEAR HER UNLESS YOU DO ALL THAT?
EVEN THOUGH SHE SINGS FACING THE CAPITAL EVERY NIGHT?
ARE YOU DISAP-POINT-ED?
—HMM—
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'D CALL IT DISAP-POINT-MENT—
…
WHAT IS IT?
NOTH-ING—
WELL,
LET'S SEE IF I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU WERE JUST THINKING—
'IN REALITY, THE SONG PRINCESSES MIGHT NOT BE—'
'—AS IMPORTANT AS WE THOUGHT THEY WERE.'
OR AM I WRONG?

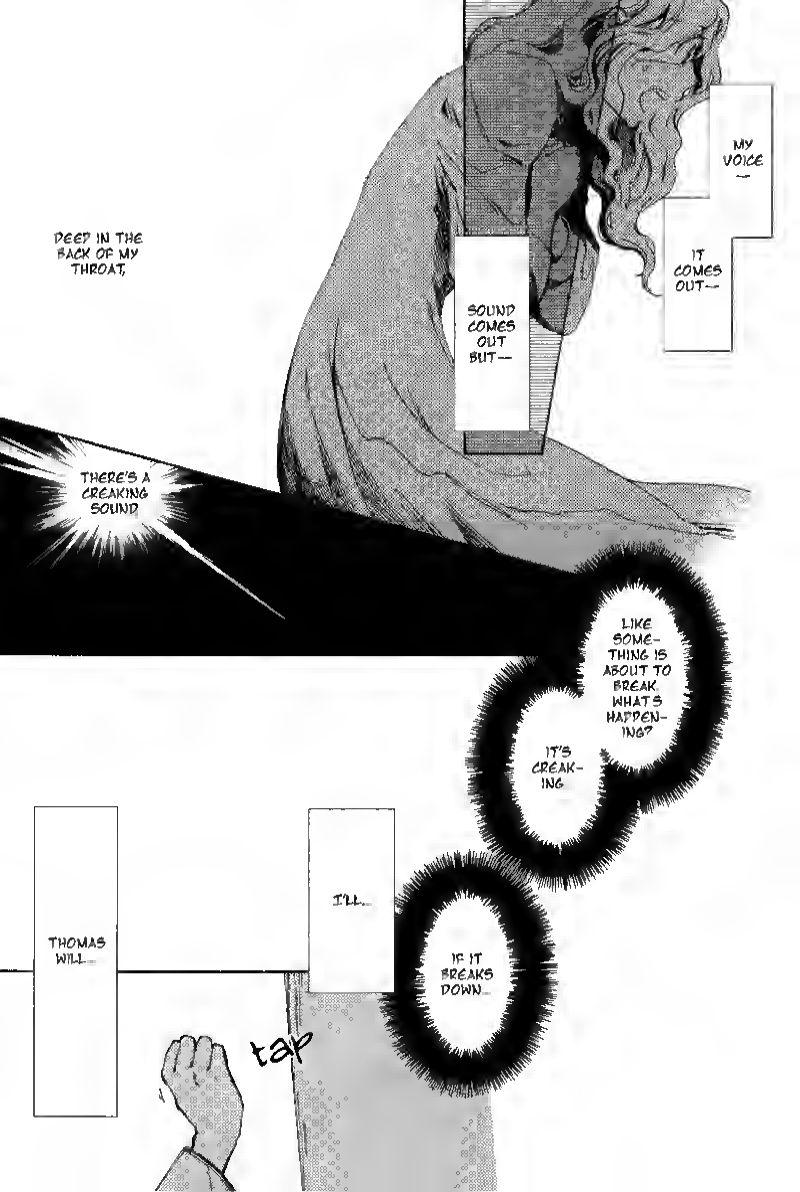
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING WHEN I CAME TO THE CAPITAL
THE PEOPLE HERE PROBABLY DON'T THINK ABOUT THE SONG PRINCESS AT ALL
ME, TOO
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
YEAH,
NOW, THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE BARELY EVEN REACHES THE CAPITAL
LONG AGO, WE VERY WELL MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE COMPANION PIECE WHO PROTECTED THE COUNTRY
BUT NOW WE'VE FALLEN APART
AND IF I HADN'T LEFT, I WOULD HAVE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE WITHOUT EVER REALISING IT
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
UP UNTIL I LEFT MY TOWN
BUT THAT'S ALREADY A THING OF THE PAST
IN OLD TIMES, THIS COUNTRY AND OTHER COUNTRIES SAID THAT THE SONG PRINCESSES AND THE KING WERE COUNTERPARTS
THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWNS WHO SAY THAT THAT'S LIFE START TO SEEM MORE AND MORE ABSURD
LITTLE BY LITTLE

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT THAT THIS HAD TO BE THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE, UP UNTIL THEN AND FROM THEN ON
IT REALLY WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!
IT MAY SEEM LIKE THE EASIEST WAY IS 'THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN UNTIL NOW,'
BUT EVEN IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED UNTIL NOW,
THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF 'THERE WAS NOTHING,' IT'S JUST THAT 'NOTHING HAS HAPPENED YET.'
THE MERE FACT THAT NO ONE REALISED MEANS THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A BREAKDOWN SOMEWHERE
OR MAYBE WE SONG PRINCESSES OURSELVES
HAVE ALWAYS REALLY BEEN THE BREAKDOWN IN OUR WORLD
...
IT'LL BE SOON, I THINK

DON'T BE SO WISHY-WASHY!!
NOW IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY
.....
EVERY-ONE'S FAST ASLEEP
AND A LOT OF THE LIGHTS IN TOWN ARE OUT
IT'S FINE!
I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO RETIRE AND GO BACK HOME OR ANY-THING!
I KNOW, ALREADY!
SO LET...
GO.
.....
WHAT IS IT?
SHH!
DIDN'T SOME-THING JUST MAKE A STRANGE SOUND?
A STRANGE SOUND?

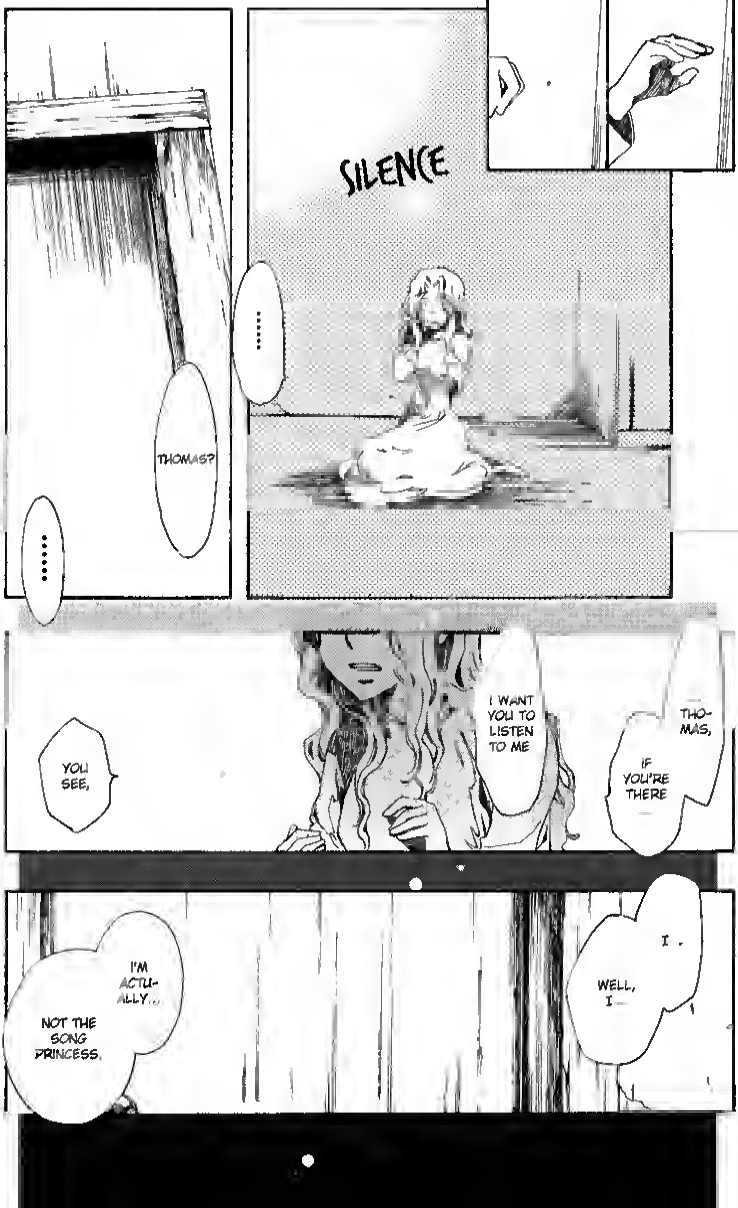
YEAH, ON AND OFF...
SOME RANDOM, AWFUL NOISE
FROM WHERE?
MIXED IN WITH THE SONG PRINCESS' VOICE... LISTEN
FAR AWAY,
FROM THE EAST...
.....
THAT'S NOT JUST SOME NOISE
IT'S SOMEONE'S VOICE
IT SOUNDED LIKE A SONG PRINCESS' VOICE,
BUT IT'S NOT...

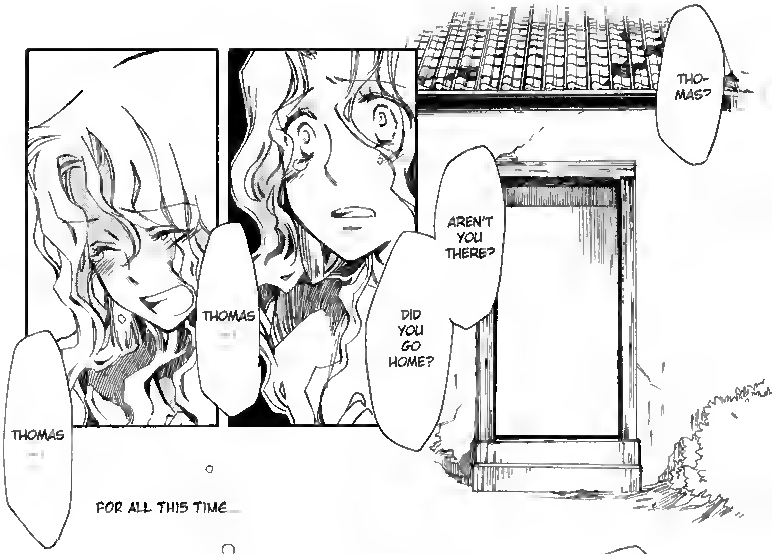
THAT'S
MARIA'S VOICE!
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

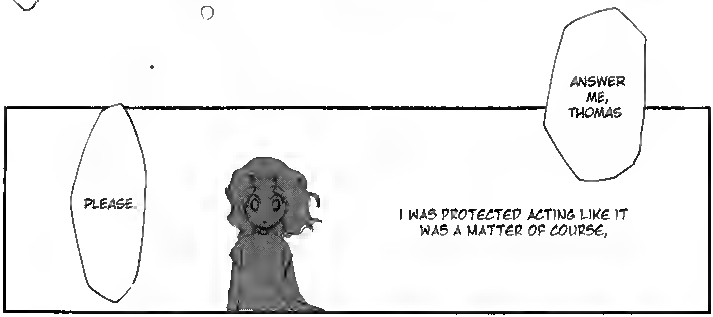

DEEP IN THE BACK OF MY THROAT,
MY VOICE —
IT COMES OUT—
SOUND COMES OUT BUT—
THERE'S A CREAKING SOUND
LIKE SOME-THING IS ABOUT TO BREAK WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
IT'S CREAK-ING
IF IT BREAKS DOWN…
I'LL…
THOMAS WILL…
tap

THAT I'M NOT THE SONG PRINCESS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THOMAS
...DOESN'T HEAR THE CREAKING IN MY VOICE
THERE AREN'T ANY PROBLEMS OR ANY-THING?
MARIA, ARE YOU AWAKE?
HOW CAN I TELL THOMAS THAT...?
.....
HEY, MARIA
I WAS THINK-ING...
ISN'T THERE SOME WAY...
...I CAN KEEP ON HIDING IT FROM HIM LIKE THIS?
IF...
AND THIS IS JUST AN "IF"
UNTIL...
UNTIL CAIN COMES BACK.
WHAT IF...
...CAIN NEVER COMES BACK?

bdmp
I'VE TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT UP UNTIL NOW,
BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE WORST COULD HAPPEN.
AND IF THINGS ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS, IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD—
STOP IT!
MARIA
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
MA—
STOP!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!!
MARIA, I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I WON'T DO IT ANY-MORE.
I'LL... GO HOME FOR TODAY.
I'M REALLY SORRY


SILENCE
THOMAS?
.....
.....
THO-
MAS,
IF
YOU'RE
THERE
I WANT
YOU TO
LISTEN
TO ME
YOU
SEE,
I .
WELL,
I—
I'M
ACTU-
ALLY...
NOT THE
SONG
PRINCESS.


THO-
MAS?
AREN'T
YOU
THERE?
DID
YOU
GO
HOME?
THOMAS
THOMAS
FOR ALL THIS TIME...


ANSWER
ME,
THOMAS
PLEASE.
I WAS PROTECTED ACTING LIKE IT
WAS A MATTER OF COURSE,

NOT THE
SONG
PRINCESS
I'M
SORRY,
THOMAS
UT
I'M...

I CAN'T PROTECT ANYONE
I'M SORRY, CAIN
HER VOICE GETS WORSE EACH TIME THE SUN SETS
IF IT STAYS LIKE THIS
IF SHE KEEPS ON SINGING, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER?
WHY DOESN'T SHE STOP SINGING?
IF SHE KEEPS THIS UP, THEN...
TCH—
DAMMIT!
HOW MUCH LONGER...
UNTIL I GET TO THE VILLAGE?

HOW LONG...
HAS IT BEEN SINCE THEN?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN QUITE A WHILE...
HOW MANY DAYS...
HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN?
BRINGING THAT UP ALL OF A SUDDEN,
OF COURSE THAT WOULD SHOCK HER
RIGHT
FIRST, I HAVE TO APOLOGISE
I WAS TOO HASTY
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME.
WE SHOULD TAKE OUR TIME TALKING ABOUT IT
SO, FIRST, I APOLOGISE
THEN,
HAVE THE LADY NEXT DOOR MAKE SOMETHING WARM...
LAST TIME WAS STEW THIS TIME...
WHAT'S THAT?

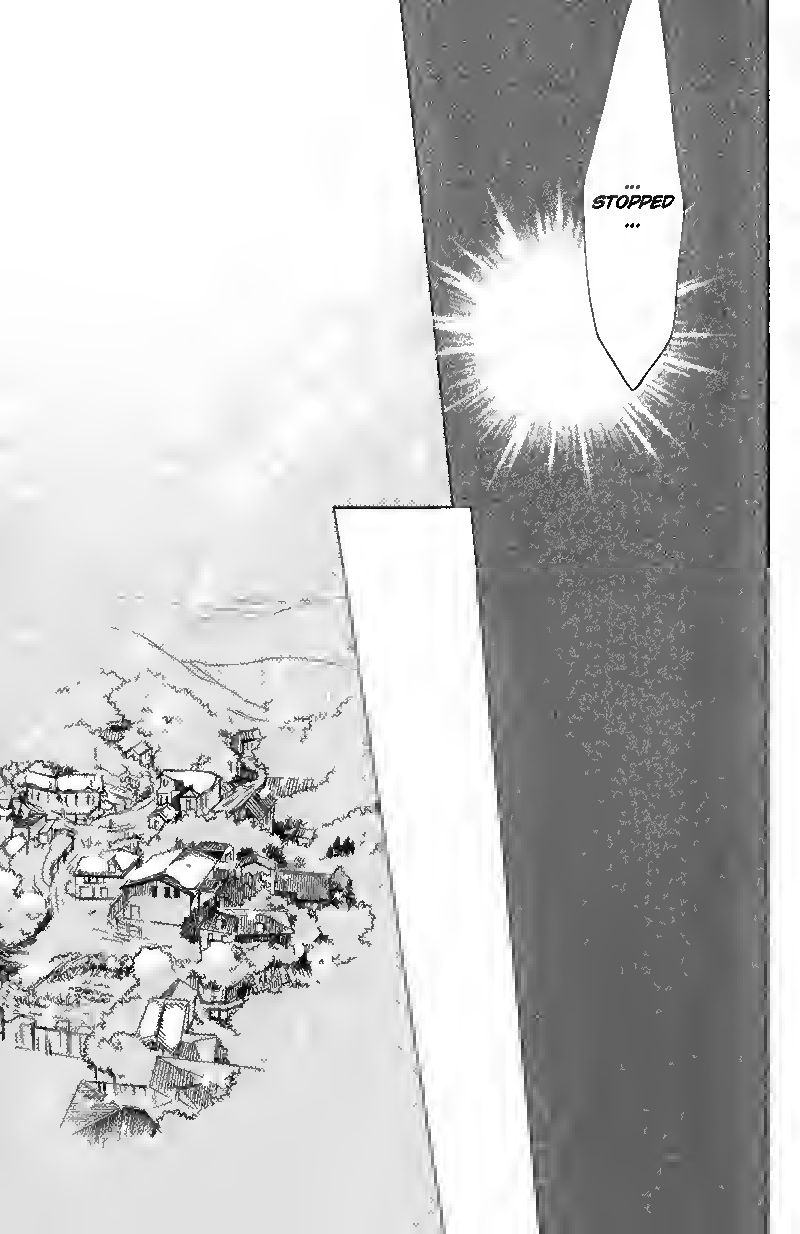
BANG
THOMAS!
OPEN UP, BALDY!
YOU BUG!!
Bang
CAIN?!
IT'S M—
WHOA!!
HURRY UP!!
IT'S ME!!
HURRY UP!!
ME!! CAIN!!

ZOOM
HUH?
YOU'VE GROWN, HAVEN'T YOU—
CAIN, YOU—
THOMAS?
GIVE ME THE KEY!
THE KEY TO THE TOWER!
NOW!
THERE'S...
HURRY!

...NO MORE TIME!
GAIN,
WAIT!
AT LEAST EXPLAIN!
GAIN!!
LET GO!
WE HAVE TO HURRY, OR MARIA...
I'M ASKING YOU, WHAT ABOUT MARIA?!
YOU DON'T KNOW ?!
HER VOICE IS AWFUL!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MAKE THE SONG PRINCESS STOP SINGING!
AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER VOICE...
YOU'RE WRONG!
AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY DID YOU COME BACK ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'VE WORRIED MARIA...
...BY NOT COMING BACK ALL THIS TIME?!
FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO...
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE DOING THAT!!
HER VOICE...
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT, HER VOICE...
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.
THAT'S—
MARIA...
...!
WHAT?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU
LIKE I SAID!
MARIA...
...ISN'T A SONG—

...THE SONG...


...
STOPPED
...

IT'LL STILL BE A WHILE UNTIL THE SNOW THAWS
YEAH
IT'S COLD THIS YEAR
IT'S COMING DOWN AGAIN
YOU'RE SKIPPING OUT ON YOUR WORK HERE
BUT AREN'T YOU GOING AWAY TOO OFTEN LATELY?
YOU KNOW, WORKING THROUGH THIS SNOW IS GREAT AND ALL,
YEAH
GOING TO THE CAPITAL AGAIN?
WELL, I'M GOING TO GO SOON
IN THE END
WE CAN'T LET MARIA'S GRAVE GET TOO PLAIN.
IF THE SNOW DOESN'T MELT, THE FLOWERS WON'T BLOOM...
WELL
DON'T SAY THAT ABOUT YOURSELF.
UNLIKE YOU, I HAD SERIOUS LIFE-RING-ING.
I'M NOT SKIPPING OUT.

WE COULDN'T SAVE MARIA
IT'S BEEN QUIET, WITHOUT ANYONE EVER REALISING THAT I
TOOK THE SONG PRIN-CESS PLACE
Well...
THAT WEIRDO DID COME
BUT NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED
That Weirdo (The King)
ALL WHILE WE BURIED MARIA
THOMAS WAS CRYING
I MEANT
TO PROTECT HER.
BUT IT
WAS NOTHING MORE THAN I' MEANT TO '
THO-MAS
I'M SORRY
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SO CLOSE,
I COULDN'T PROTECT ANYTHING AT ALL
I'M SORRY
WHO SHOULD BE APOLO-GISING
I'M SORRY
I'M THE ONE

BUT NO COMFORTING WORDS CAME TO MIND.
AND JUST LIKE THAT,
WELL, I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK FROM THE CAPITAL FOR A WHILE.
OKAY.
DON'T DIE OF HUNGER, OKAY?
OKAY.
Eat the food according to the plan.
Eat some thing other than meat!
How old do you think I am?!
You're so cocky for sure!
You stupid insect!
AND THEN, AT A TIME LIKE THAT,
A FAMILIAR OLD GUEST CAME.
WOW! THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...
HEY.
BUT I BET I'VE BECOME TOTALLY RUSTY...
COULDN'T YOU TALK A LITTLE TO ME, SEEING THAT I CARRIED YOUR BAGS ALL THIS WAY?
OH, I FORGOT.
...

SORRY FOR BEING SO LATE!
WE WANTED TO SEND THEM AFTER YOU RIGHT AWAY, BUT A LOT OF STUFF HAP-PENED...
SINCE YOU RAN OFF AND LEFT YOUR BAGS BEHIND...
EMMA WAS WORRIED, TOO
BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE DOING WELL
That expression...
WHAT?
HEY
A FRIEND OF MINE IS AT THE CAPITAL RIGHT...
THAT'S A COINCI-DENCE...
THE CAPI-TAL?
SHE'S AT THE CAPITAL RIGHT NOW
NOPE
Here you go.
WHAT ABOUT EMMA? IS IT HER TURN TO BE BONG PRIN-CESS?
THAT'S RIGHT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
WELL, YOU SEE,
KNOW WHAT?
?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANY-THING?
SO WHAT IS IT?!
BUT YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW
WELL, I HEARD THEY WERE KEEP-ING IT A SECRET FROM YOU,

THEY'RE GETTING RID OF THEM
THE SONG PRINCESS' TOWNS
HUH?
I don't get what you mean at all
WELL, SINCE LAST YEAR, THE NEW KING, YOU KNOW,
SHE'S BEING GOING AROUND INSPECTING THE SONG PRINCESS' VILLAGES ONE BY ONE...
SHE CAME TO OUR TOWN TOO,
AND IT GOT OUT THAT THE TWO OF THEM WERE TAKING TURNS
IT WAS EMMA'S BAD LUCK
THAT SHE WAS THE SONG PRINCESS AT THE TIME
WHAT?!
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT HAVING TWO OF US DO IT?!
WE HAD AN EXTRA, SO IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU CAN'T TELL WHO'S FAKE FROM WHO'S REAL, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE SAYING TO TAKE CARE OF SOME LORD WHO DOESN'T REALISE IF HIS BRIDE IS A FAKE WELL, YOU CAN TAKE IT RIGHT BACK!
TO BEGIN WITH, WHY SHOULD WOMEN PROTECT A FEMALE KING?!
RA
MG
I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH YOU!
← The King

SO,
THEY ACTUALLY HIT IT OFF REALLY WELL TOGETHER
WHILE THEY WERE TALKING,
THEY REALISED THAT THEY BOTH KNEW YOU, CAIN
AND WHILE THEY WERE DISCUSSING WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT,
SOMEONE FROM A SONG PRINCESS' VILLAGE CAME WITH A REALLY SOLID CONCRETE PROPOSAL
...!
IT SEEMS LIKE HE SUBMITTED THE IDEA, THINKING THERE WAS NO HARM IN TRYING
HE ONLY HAD A ROUGH DRAFT MADE UP
CURRENTLY, VILLAGERS AND TOWNSPEOPLE DEPEND ON THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A SONG PRINCESS TOWN
SUDDENLY DEPRIVING THEM OF THAT WOULD ONLY INVITE THEIR ANTIPATHY
HOWEVER, IF WE WERE TO GRADUALLY STRENGTHEN THEIR CAPACITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES
THEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE...
...TO FREE THE SONG PRINCESSES FROM THEIR TOWNS

WHAT A GREAT VILLAGE CHIEF, DON'T YOU THINK?
...I'VE KNOWN THAT EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD
OH, ARE YOU ALREADY GOING HOME, THOMAS?
YES IT'S BEEN DECIDED TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN TO DO AWAY WITH THE VILLAGE SO I HAVE TO HURRY BACK AND TELL MARIA
ALL RIGHT
THE SITUATION IS THE SAME FOR THE SONG PRINCESS' TOWNS IN OTHER COUNTRIES TOO
I GUESS THAT MEANS IT'S ALL WORKED OUT
SONG PRINCESSES IN OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE THEIR TOWNS
IF WE DO MANAGE TO ABOLISH THOSE TOWNS IN THIS COUNTRY, IT'LL SPREAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES, TOO

SO I GUESS
YOU, AND NOW EVERY-ONE ELSE,
HAVE BEEN ATONED FOR NOW, CAIN
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M SURE
THAT THEY'LL ALL FOR-GIVE YOU WITH A SMILE!
WE HAD WORDS
..THAT WE COULD NOT SAY.
WANTING TO BE FORGIVEN THAT,
WE RAN AWAY AND PUT IT OFF FOR LATER.
IN THE END,

WE CAME TO THIS,
WITHOUT EVER BEING ABLE TO SAY ANY-THING
MARIA
I CAN FINALLY SAY THIS WITH MY HEAD HELD HIGH
I REALLY ...DID LOVE YOU.
SOON THE SNOW WILL THAW
AND THE SPRING YOU WISHED FOR WILL COME

UTAHIME CHAPTER FIVE / END

雑記

▶どうも あきです。
お手に取って下さり
ありがとうございます。

いろんなんにご迷惑を
かけつつ そして
いろんなんに恐らんつつ
描かせて頂きました
原稿のだきを集めたら
こんなにブ厚く
なりましたのです。
ミラクル！

▶余裕をもって
描いたのなんて結局
1度もなかったなぁ…

こんなコミックスでも「待ってます」と
身内から身内じゃない方から から
言って頂いたのですが
色んなありがたい 言葉を全然
素直に聞けない事が多くて
そんな本能で本当にすみません。

「敬雄」

とに角く勉強させて頂いた という
話になりました？私が。

実はもともと脳内(あの)ではマリアは
カインのママの兄だったのですが
いやいやそんな私のシュミに走った
設定じゃまずいだろ とか思って
女にしちゃったわけです。

後でモーレツ反省した。
姉じゃなくて兄の方が 肉厚いなく
私は100倍たのしく描けたはず!!
（ ）

人間本能に正直に生きな
アカンらしい という事です。
↑
学んだ事。

「ダリカ」
入れないーーと言ったのに
結局ここに入ることになった
よくありもんです。ウハーー(笑)
色々と描き直したい所の多い話でが
描くくらいが何とかなしんでできなかた
ので、おお(俺)そのまま載せることた。
先生が描いていたんしたのしかたです。
ああくやしいなーーうぉーー。

お話どんどんお目にかかれた際にはもう少し色を何かと成長したものと
お見せできるようになってればな——と思います。
未熟なのはわかっておりますが今はというこの時のこれが精一杯で
ございました——。見苦しいとこいっぱいかと思いますが、ご容赦下さいです。スミマセン。

2006 あき。

「モモのこもし」で検索して頂くと
アホな自紀がメインコンテンツの
ばかなサイトが あなたの家の
パソコンのモニターで見れて
しまったりするのです。なんてこと!
(笑)

サンクス
たまちゃん
いくたん
まめちゃん

大事な時間を私の為に割いて下さる
有難いおトモダチです。ありがとーありがと——!!!

雑記／END

歌姫